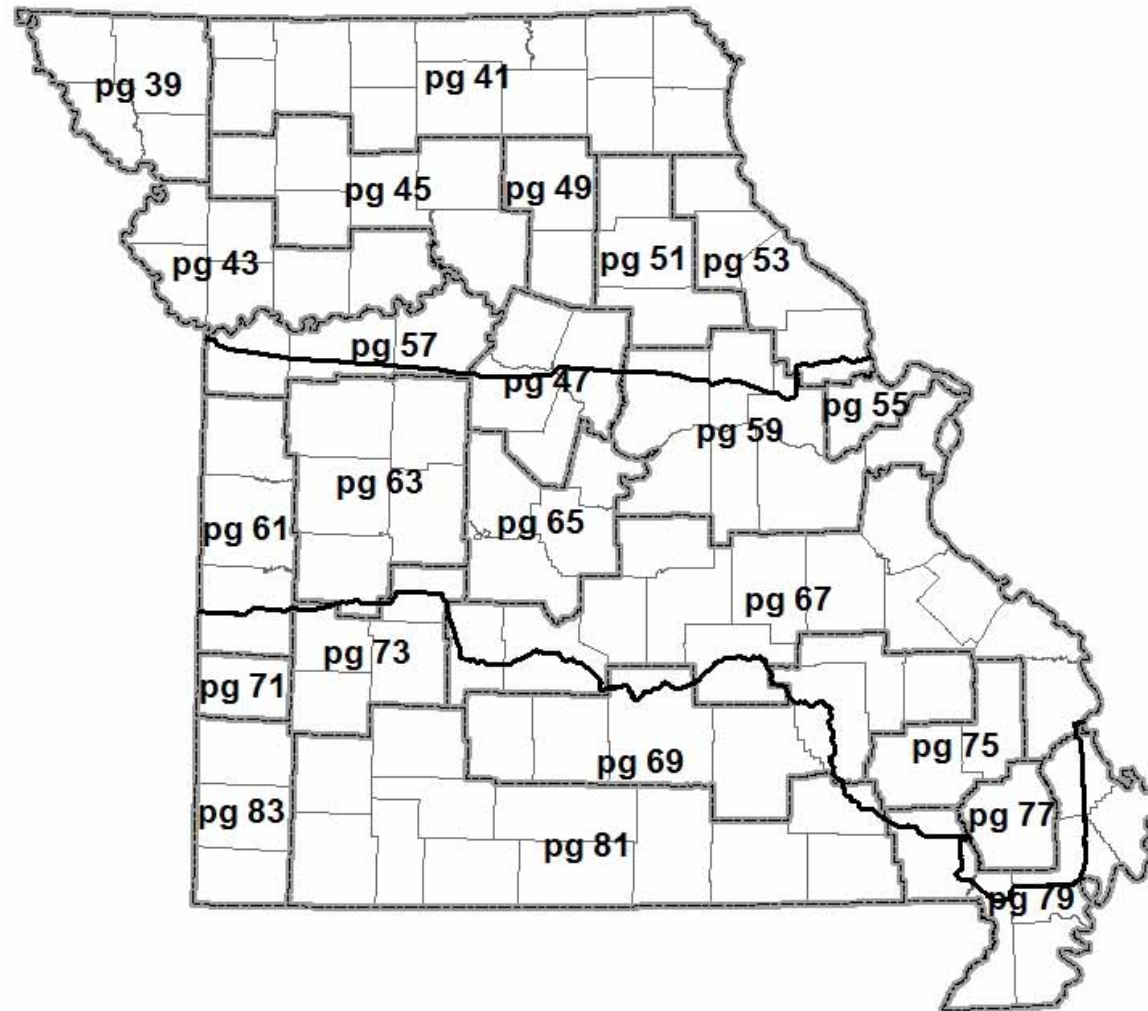


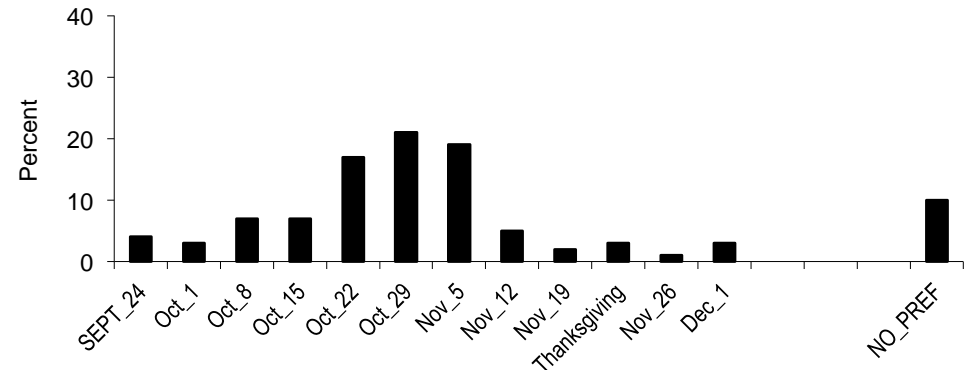
HUNTER OPINIONS ABOUT SEASON DATES AND ZONE BOUNDARIES IN 23 REGIONS OF MISSOURI



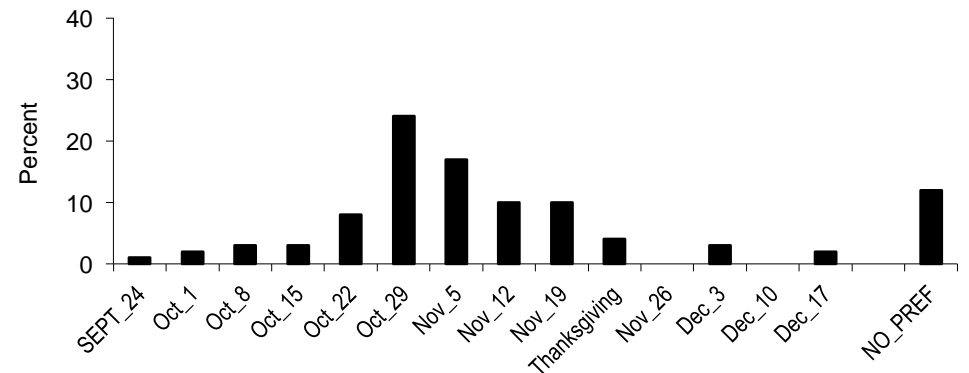
SQUAW CREEK: Until development of Bob Brown CA in 1992 and Nodaway Valley in 2002, primary hunting sites were on private wetlands associated with Squaw Creek NWR and Missouri River floodplain wetlands. Field hunting is now becoming more popular in this region. Potential for freeze-up during a 60-day season is most likely in the Squaw Creek Region. Hunter 60-day season date preferences slightly favor the current opening date of October 29 (21%); whereas, 17% preferred the season to open a week earlier on October 22 and 19% preferred the season to open a week later on November 5. In the event of a 45-day season, the most preferred option (24%) was to retain the same opening date, but close on December 12. Hunter opinion was more varied in regards to the 30-day season with 21% of respondents suggesting the season should open November 5, 14% preferring October 29, and 14% selecting November 19.



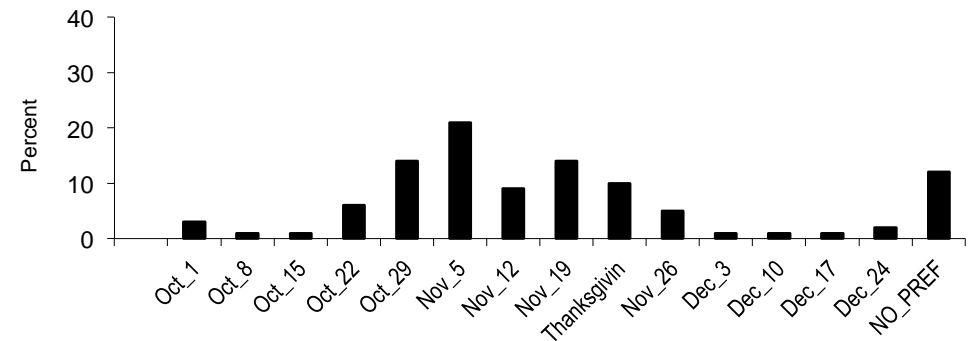
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region (n=150).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region (n=143).



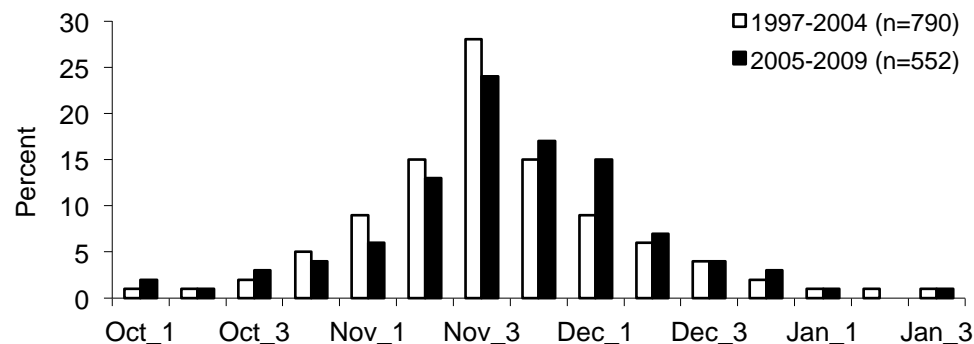
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region (n=140).



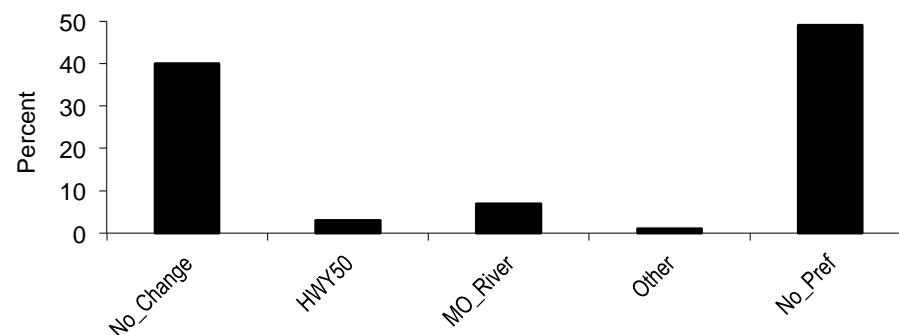
SQUAW CREEK: Hunters in the Squaw Creek region have indicated slightly later season date preferences during the past five years compared to the previous eight years of 60-day seasons. Compared to other regions, hunters in this region expressed more agreement about their most preferred week to hunt with 41% indicating they most preferred to hunt during the third and fourth weeks of November. Nearly 90% of respondents either had no opinion or preferred the current North Zone boundary in western Missouri. Although only 6% indicated they were dissatisfied with zone boundaries, 23% expressed dissatisfaction with season dates.



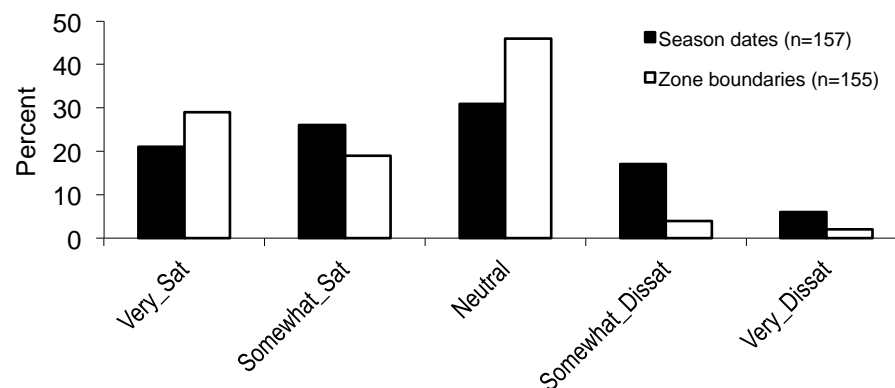
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region (n=177).



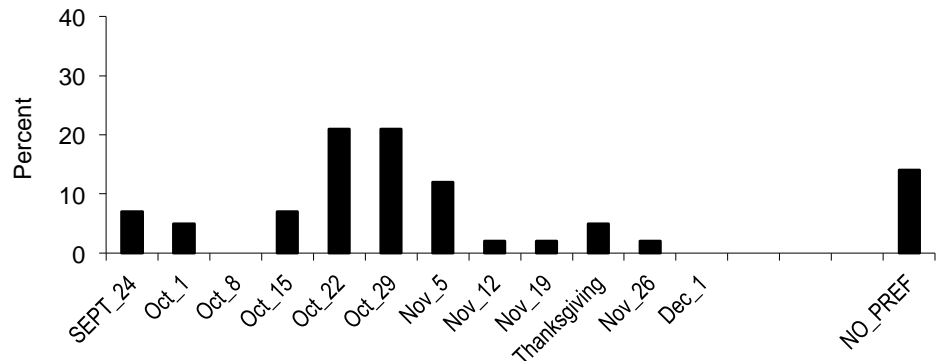
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Squaw Creek Region.



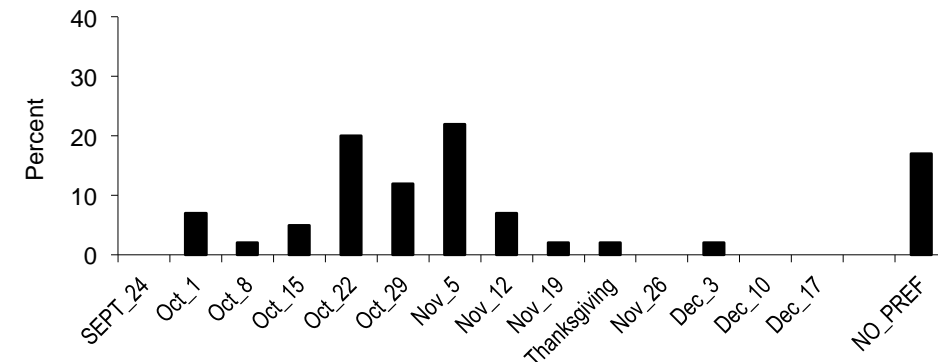
NORTH MISSOURI: Small streams and rivers, associated floodplain wetlands (oxbow depressions), and farm ponds account for much of the North Missouri wetland habitat. This region has relatively few duck hunters. Those responding to this survey had equal preference (21%) for the current opening day of October 29 or the season opening a week earlier on October 22. An opening day of November 5 was slightly favored (22%) over an opening day of October 22 (20%) in the event of a 45-day season. There was no clear agreement for an opening date in the event of a 30-day season although October 29 was slightly more preferred (18%) than an opening day of November 12 (15%).



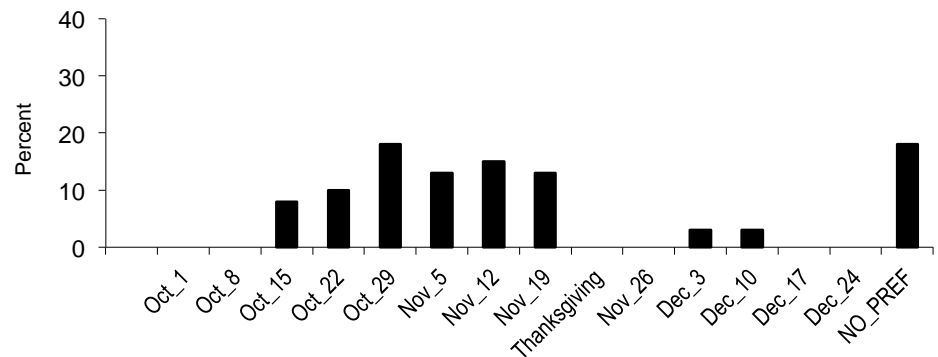
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region (n=42).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region (n=41).



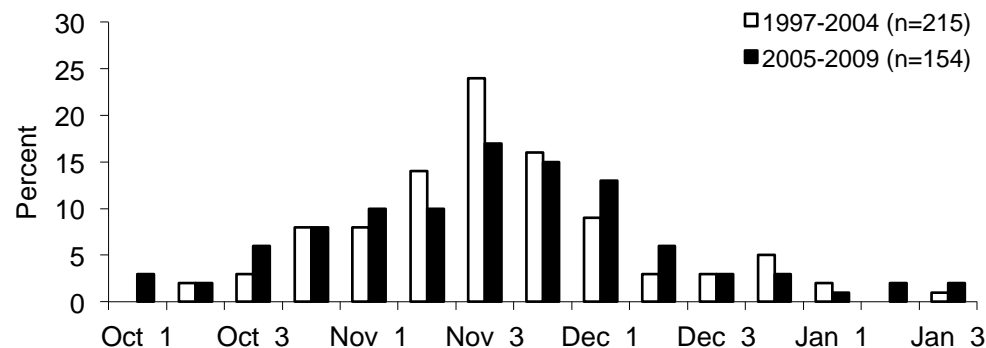
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region (n=39).



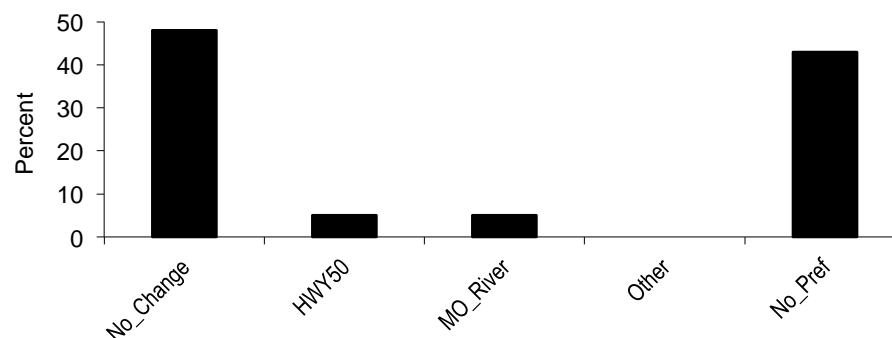
NORTH MISSOURI: Similar to season date preferences, the week most preferred by hunters in north Missouri is earlier than in most regions. Over 70% of 2005-2009 respondents preferred to hunt in either October or November, with the third week in November being the most popular. More than 90% of respondents either had no opinion or preferred the current north zone boundary in western Missouri. However, 38% of respondents were dissatisfied with season dates in this region.



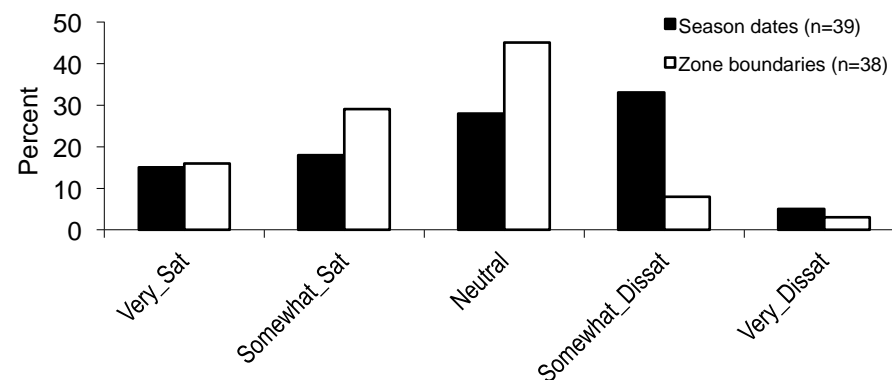
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region (n=44).



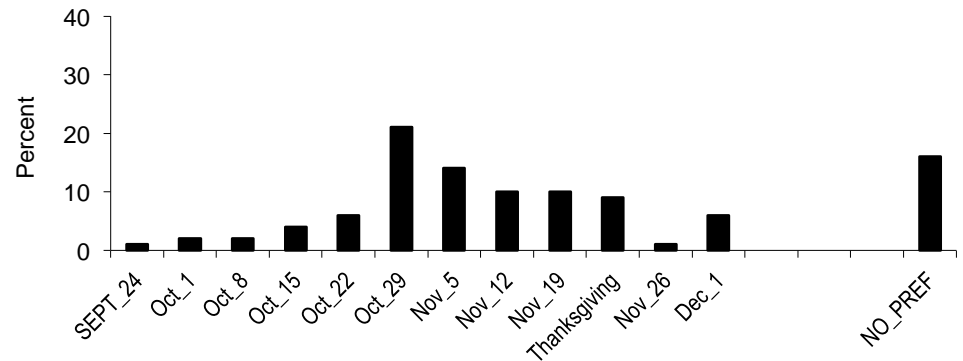
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the North Missouri Region.



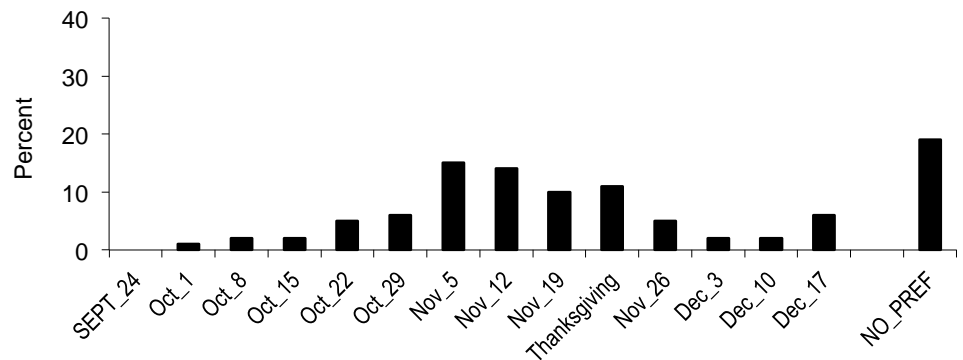
MISSOURI RIVER NORTH: With the combination of shallow water habitat, along with deep water habitat found in association with the Missouri River and Smithville Reservoir, hunters were more divided about season date preferences than hunters in the Northwest and generally had later season date preferences. Only 21% indicated support for the current timing of the North Zone opener around October 29, while 50% preferred a later season opener and 15% an earlier opener. An additional analysis that compiled the average season date preferences of hunters across the Missouri River North region found that on average hunters in this region preferred a 60-day season to open on November 5, compared to the current opening date around October 29. Hunters were in much less agreement about season dates in the event of 45- or 30-day seasons. Hunters were nearly equally divided about when a 30-day season should open with the most preferred dates ranging from November 5 through November 26.



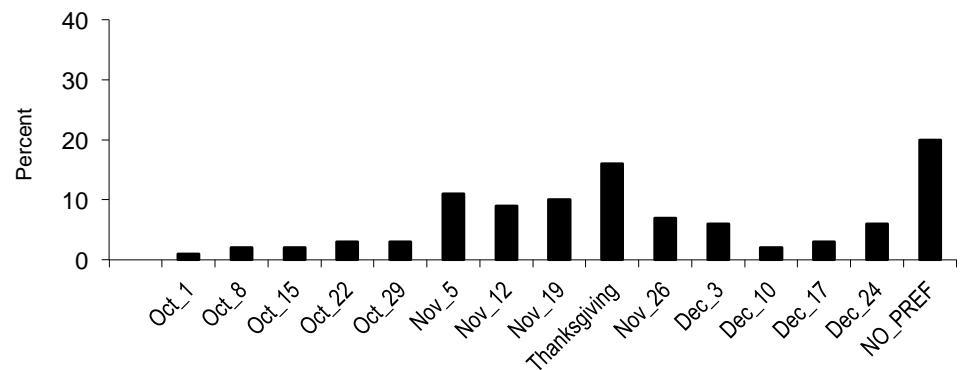
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region (n=125).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region (n=121).



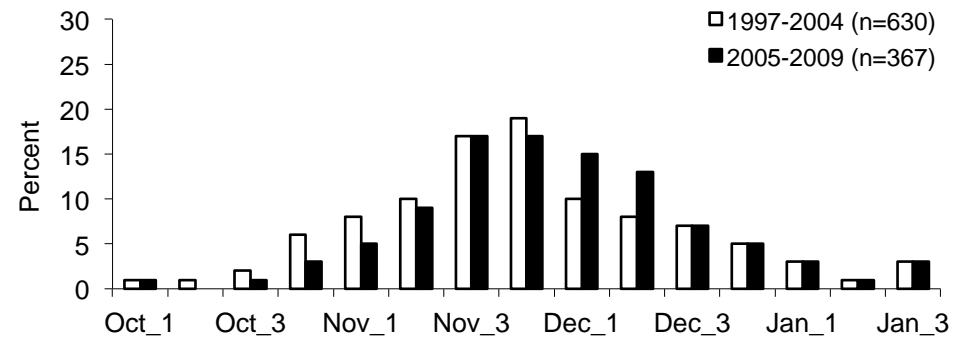
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region (n=120).



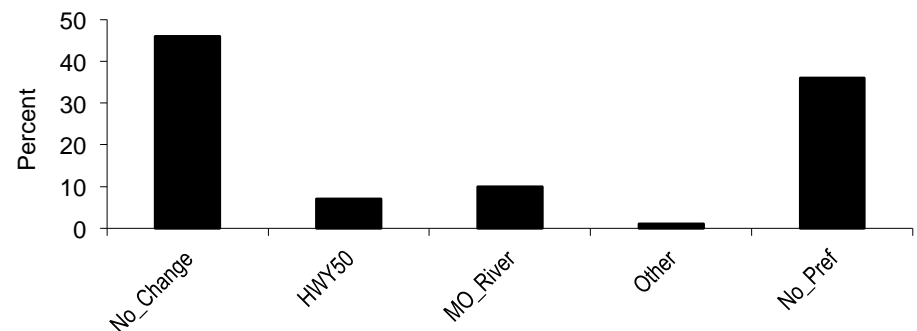
MISSOURI RIVER NORTH: In recent years, more hunters in this region have expressed a preference for later season dates. The number of hunters who indicated their most preferred week was either in December or January rose from 37% for 1997-2004 respondents to 47% for 2005-2009 respondents. However, the third and fourth weeks of November still were the most popular weeks to hunt ducks in this region with 17% preferring the third week of November and 17% the fourth week of November. Thirty-one percent of hunters in the region expressed dissatisfaction with season dates with 50% of hunters in the region preferring a later 60-day season. Although 50% of hunters in this region preferred a later 60-day season, and 31% expressed dissatisfaction with zone boundaries, only 17% suggested an alternative zone boundary.



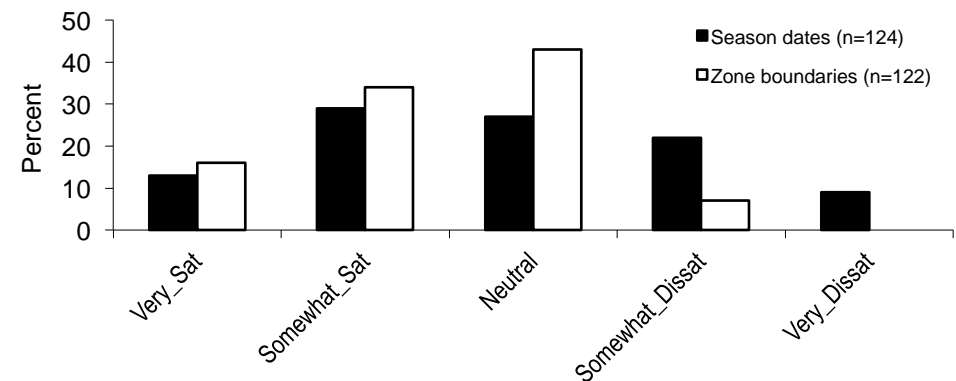
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region (n=136).



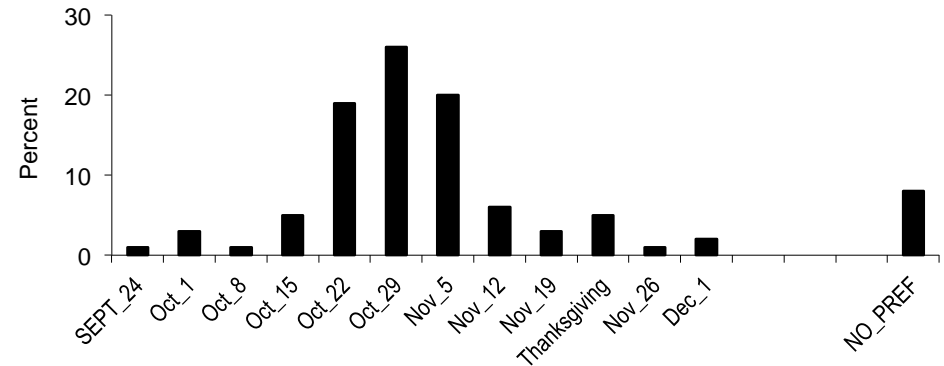
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Missouri River North Region.



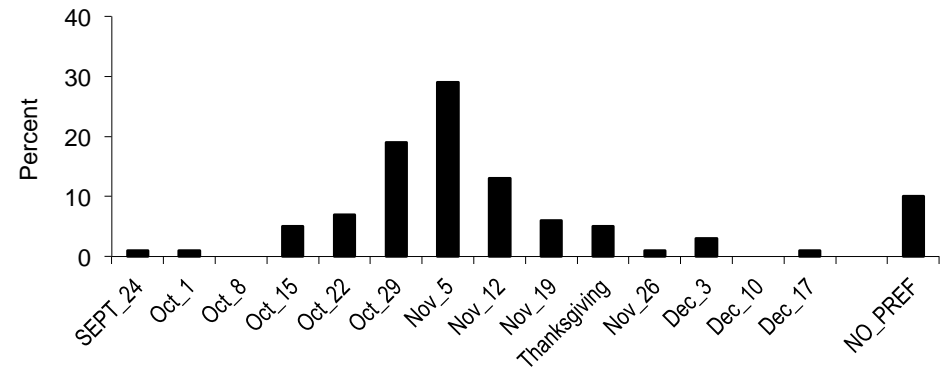
FOUNTAIN GROVE: Most hunting in this region is done over shallow water. Hunter season date preferences in this region were similar to other regions in north Missouri. In a 60-day season, the current opening date around October 29 was the most popular with 26% selecting this option although 19% would like it to open a week earlier and 20% a week later. Hunters were in more agreement that the season should open on November 5 during a 45-day season (24%) and November 12 during a 30-day season (29%).



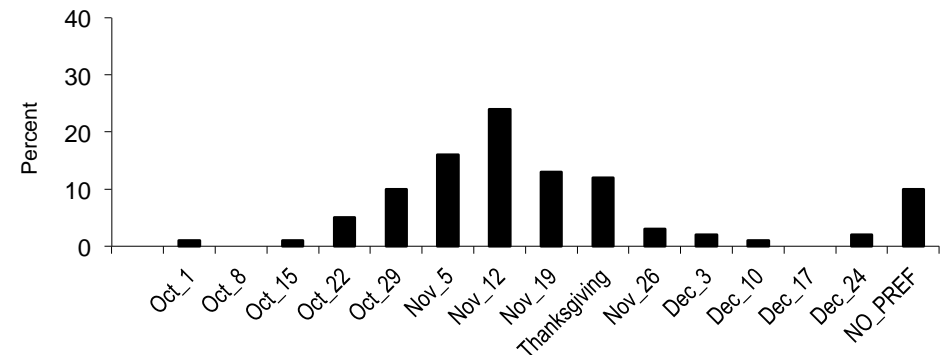
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region (n=153).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region (n=150).



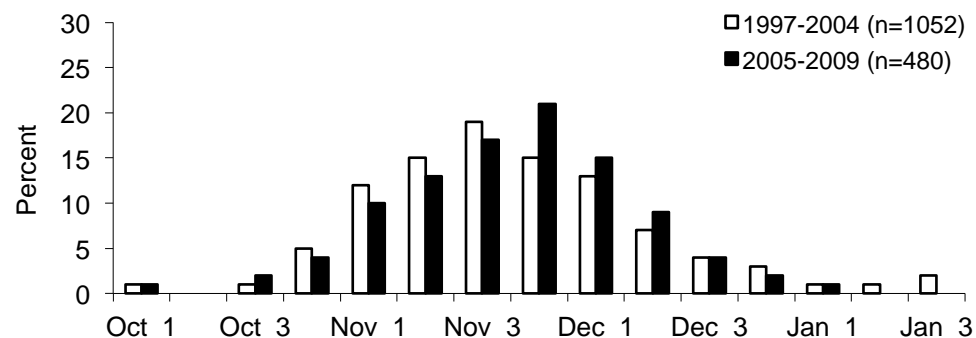
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region (n=148).



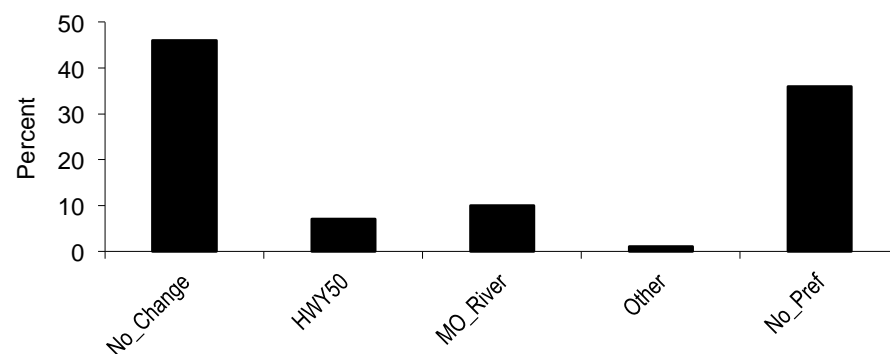
FOUNTAIN GROVE: As in many regions of the state, hunter preferences in the Fountain Grove Region have gradually shifted towards later dates. However, there is general agreement among hunters with 53% indicating their most preferred week occurs from the third week of November through the first week in December. Twenty-three percent of hunters in this region expressed dissatisfaction with season dates and 16% provided alternative zone boundary locations.



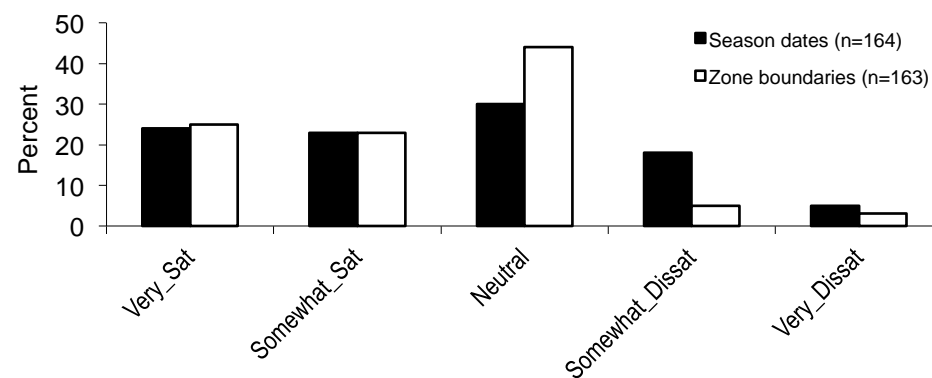
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region (n=136).



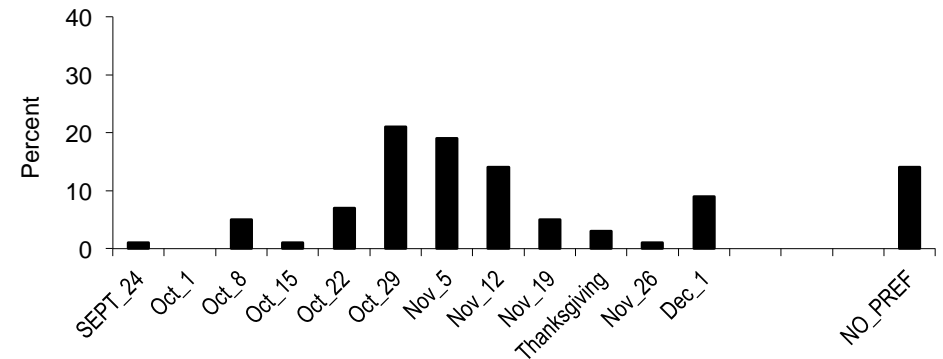
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Fountain Grove Region.



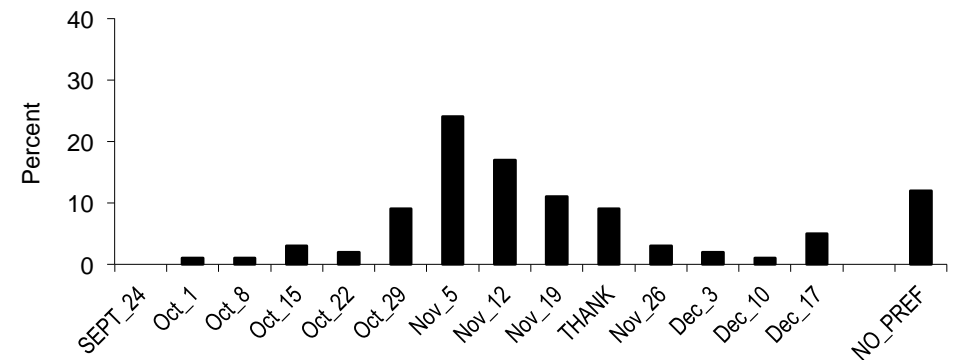
EAGLE BLUFFS: Hunters in the Eagle Bluffs Region have the opportunity to hunt either shallow water habitat such as Eagle Bluffs CA or deep water habitat on the Missouri River. Prior to 2006, much of this region was in the North Zone. After five years experience with the new zone boundary, preferences for timing of a 60-day season reflect that the zone boundary splits this region as 21% preferred the current North Zone 60-day season opener of October 29, 19% preferred the current Middle Zone 60-day season opener of November 5, and 14% preferred a later 60-day season opener of November 12. In the event of a 45-day season, hunters were more in agreement, with 24% preferring the season to extend from November 5 through December 19. When considering 30-day season options, preferences were once again more divided with similar numbers of hunters wanting it to open on any given weekend in November.



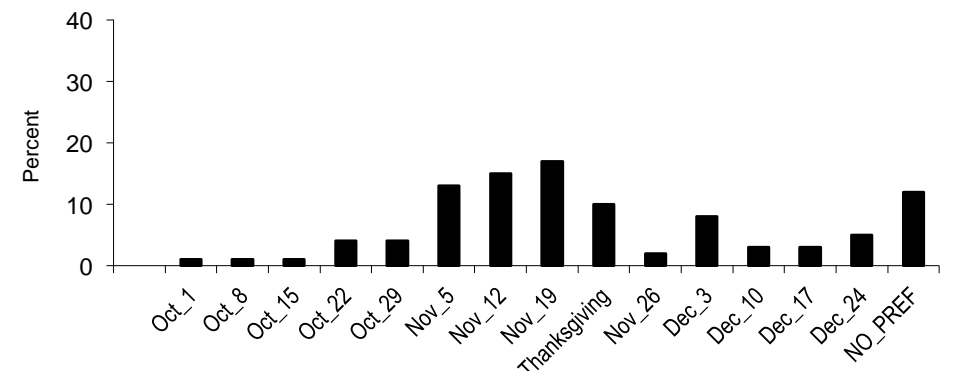
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region (n=96).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region (n=94).



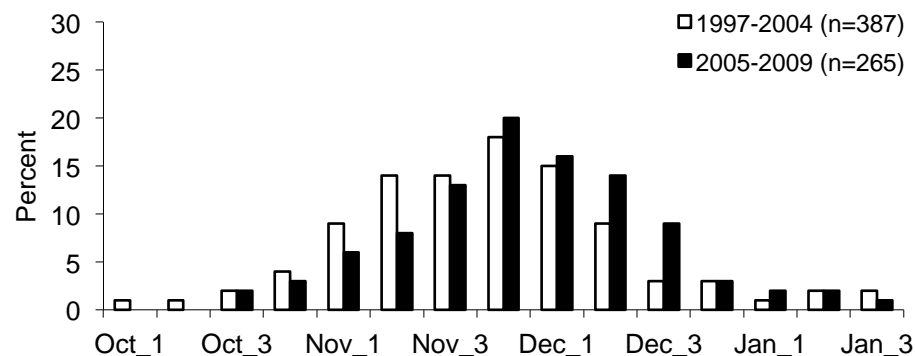
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region (n=93).



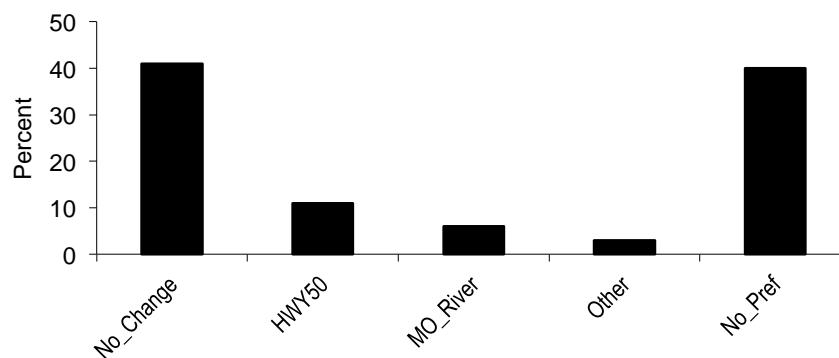
EAGLE BLUFFS: Those hunting shallow water locations were likely among the 52% of 2005-2009 respondents who indicated their preferred week to hunt was in October or November. Those hunting the Missouri River were likely among the 47% with December and January preferences. Only 13% expressed dissatisfaction with the zone boundaries and 14% with season dates.



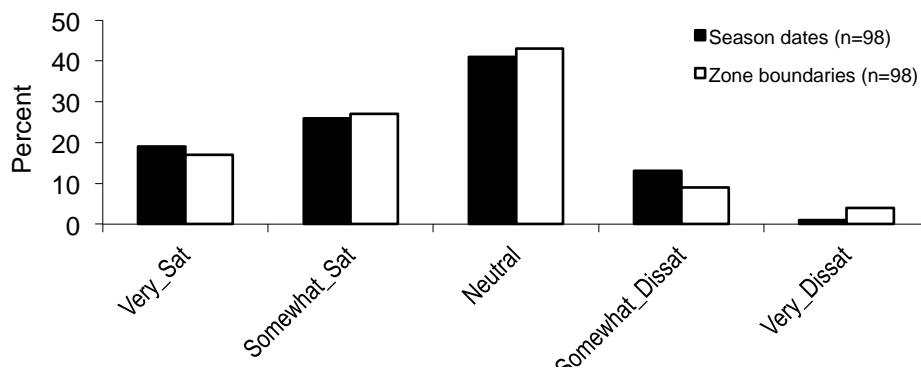
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region (n=103).



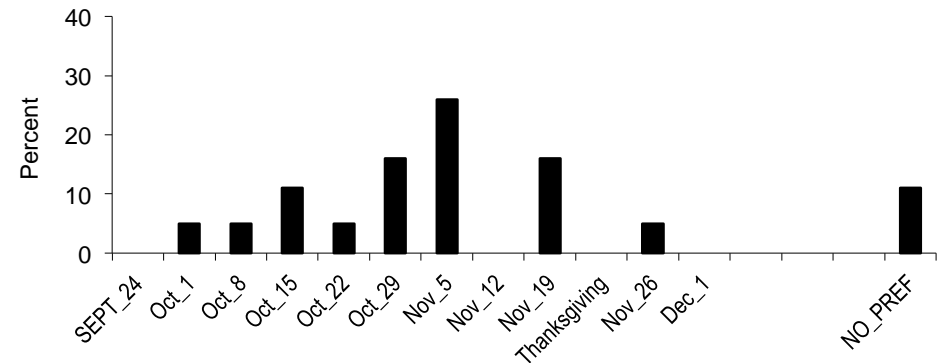
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Eagle Bluffs Region.



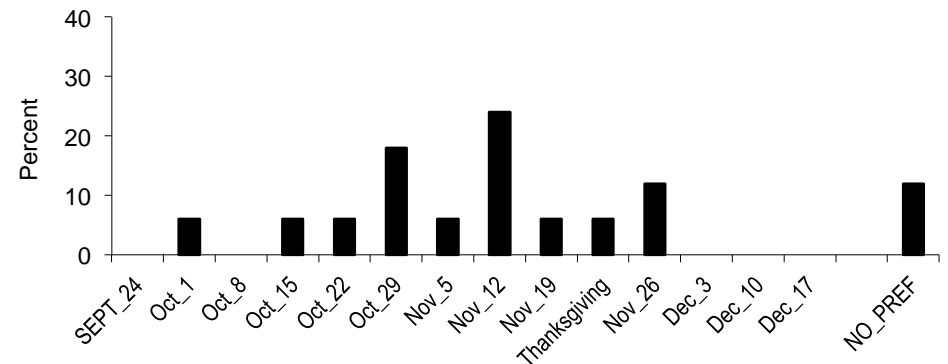
THOMAS HILL: Reservoirs and the Chariton River floodplain provide the primary wetlands in this region. The varied habitats, ranging from shallow remnant depressions in the Chariton River floodplain to deep, open water associated with warm-water discharge from power generation on Thomas Hill, account for diverse views about hunting seasons. Based on a very limited sample size, 16% of hunters in this region preferred the current opening date of October 29, 47% would like a later opener, and 21% an earlier opener. A November 12 opener and November 19 opener were the most popular among hunters for 45-day and 30-day seasons, respectively.



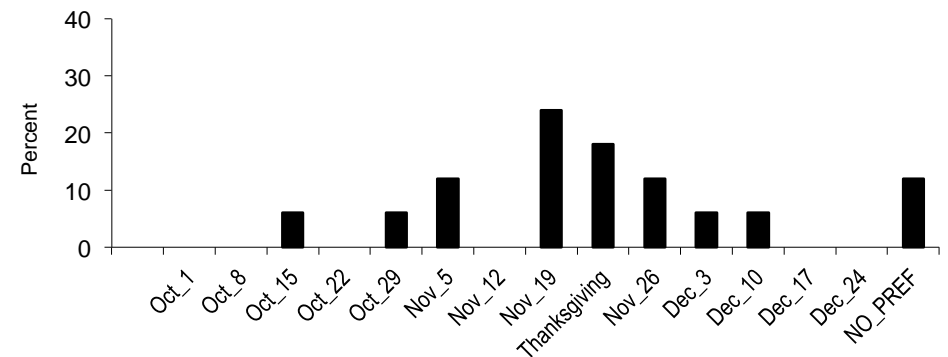
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region (n= 19).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region (n= 17).

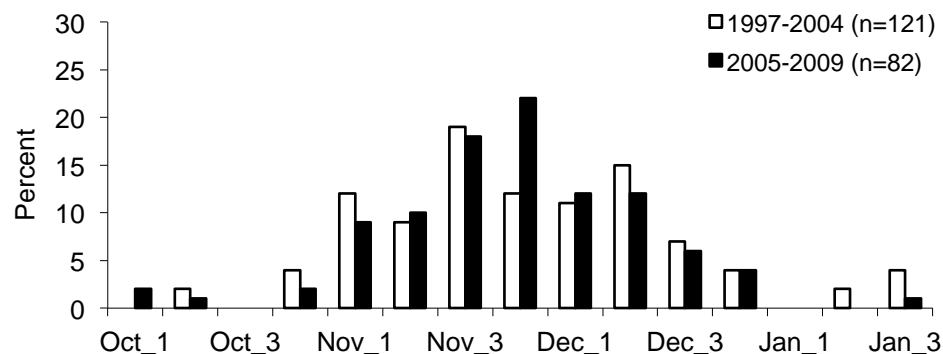


Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region (n= 17).

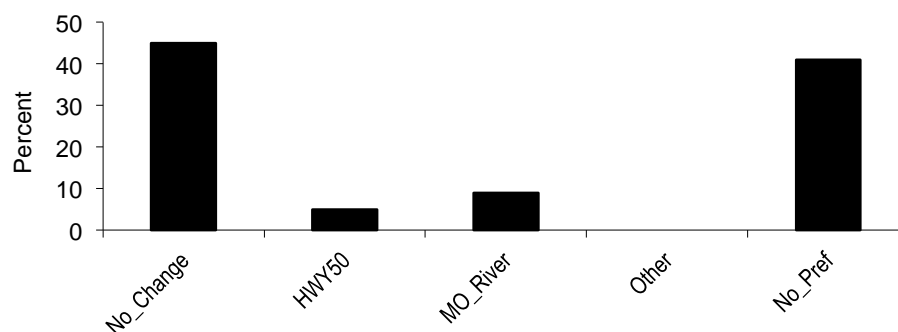


THOMAS HILL: While season dates were variable among hunters in the Thomas Hill region, they expressed more agreement about the week they most preferred to hunt with 40% indicating they most preferred to hunt during the third and fourth week of November. Ten percent of respondents from this region were dissatisfied with zone boundaries and 15% with season dates.

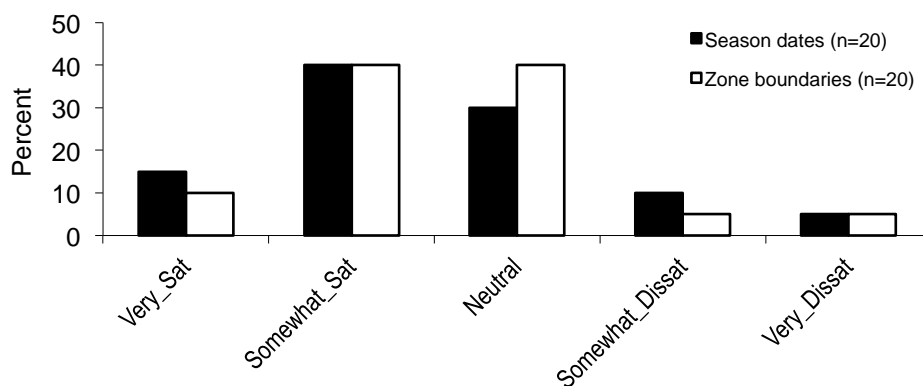
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region (n=22).



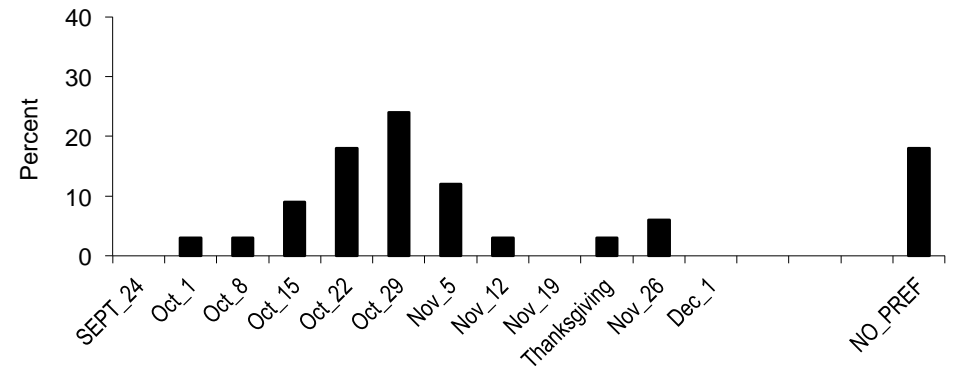
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Thomas Hill Region.



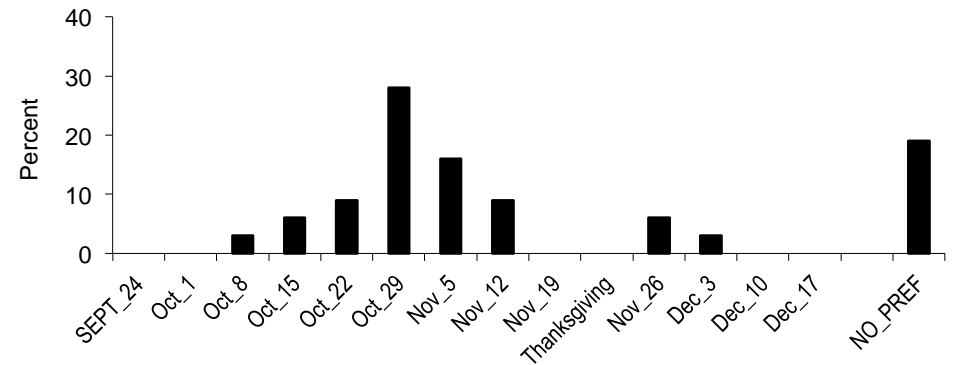
MARK TWAIN: Mark Twain Reservoir and irrigation lakes provide the most hunting opportunity in this region. Based on a very limited sample size, 24% of hunters preferred the current North Zone opener around October 29, 33% preferred an earlier opener, and 24% preferred a later opener for a 60-day season. The majority of respondents did not want the season to open any later in a 45-day season and in a 30-day season; October 29 and November 5 were the most popular selections, respectively.



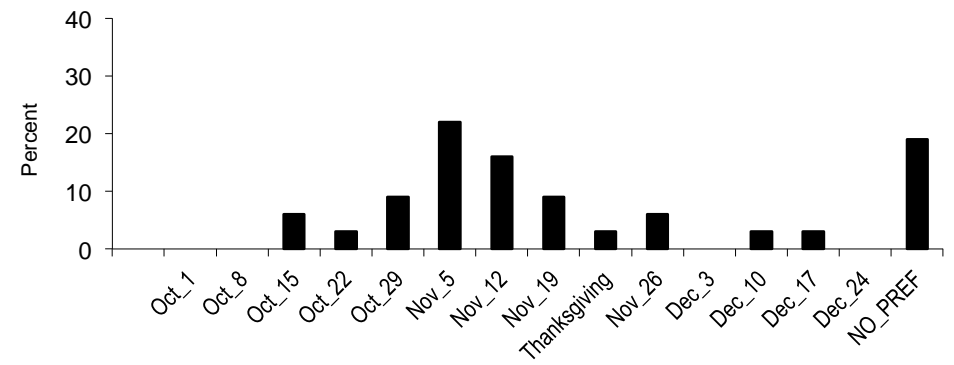
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region (n= 33).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region (n= 32).



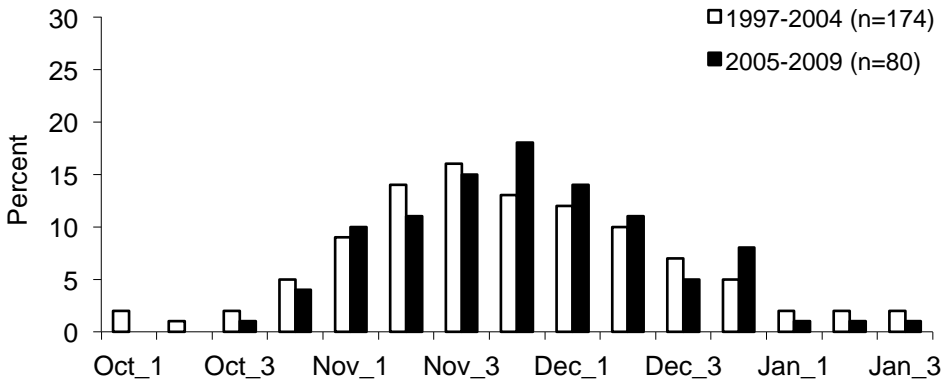
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region (n= 32).



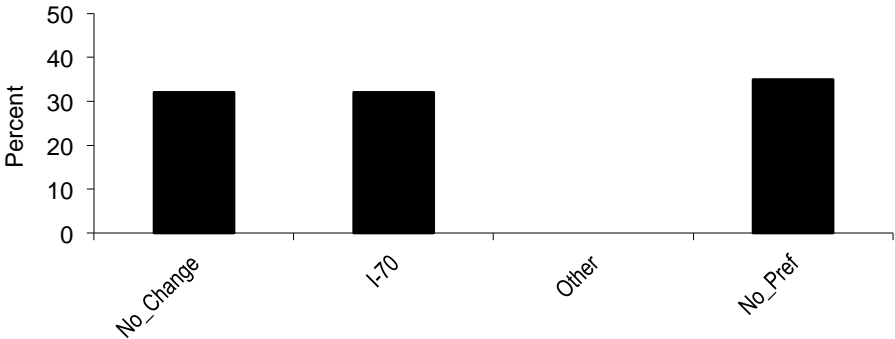
MARK TWAIN: Similar to many regions in northern Missouri, the fourth week in November was most frequently selected as the week respondents most preferred to hunt. Eighteen percent selected the fourth week in November as their most preferred week to hunt and 41% selected either the third or fourth week in November or the first week in December. Twenty-five percent of Mark Twain hunters were dissatisfied with season dates and 15% with zone boundaries. Although it would have little impact on hunting in this region, 32% indicated they would like the North Zone in eastern Missouri revert back to I-70.



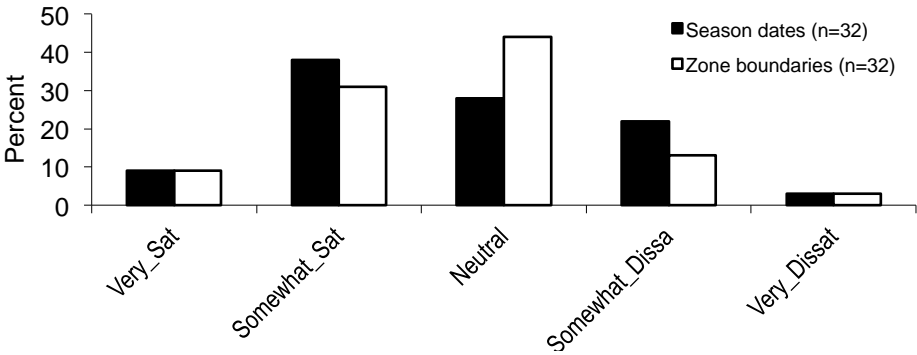
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region (n=34).



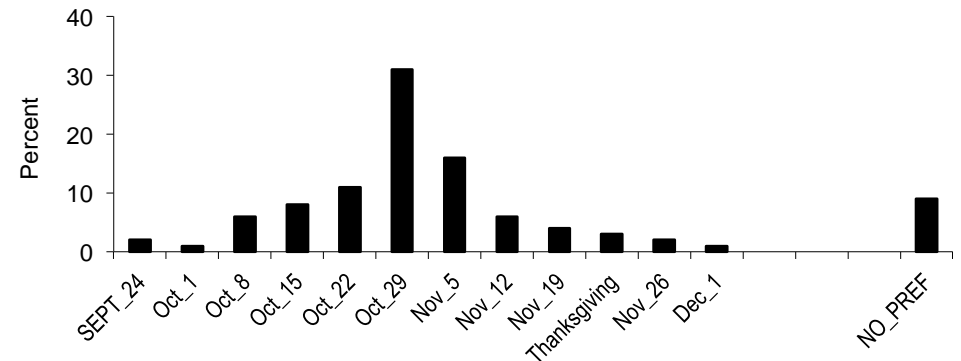
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Mark Twain Region.



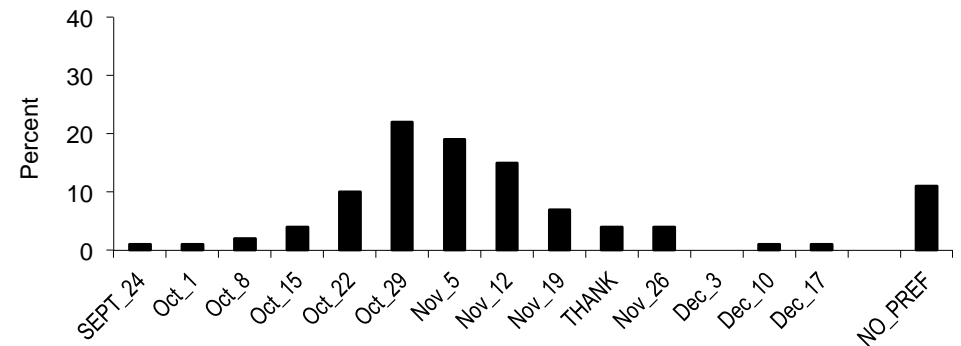
UPPER MISSISSIPPI: The “Upper Miss” is one of the most traditional migration corridors and hunting locations in Missouri and the Midwest. Habitats range from open river to backwater sloughs to managed shallow wetlands. Hunters in this region expressed significant agreement about 60-day season dates compared to all other regions with 32% preferring the current opening date around October 29. The remaining respondents with an opinion were evenly divided with 28% desiring an earlier season and 32% preferring a later season. Maintaining an October 29 opener was the most frequently selected option for a 45-day season and hunters expressed little agreement about when a 30-day season should open.



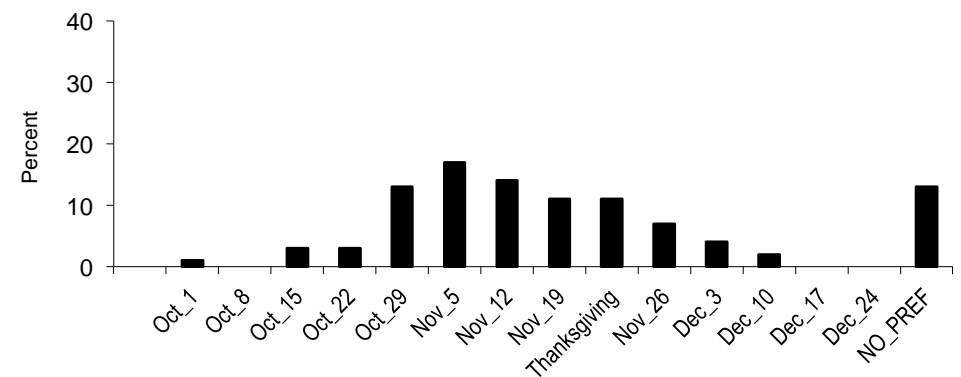
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region (n=235).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region (n=222).



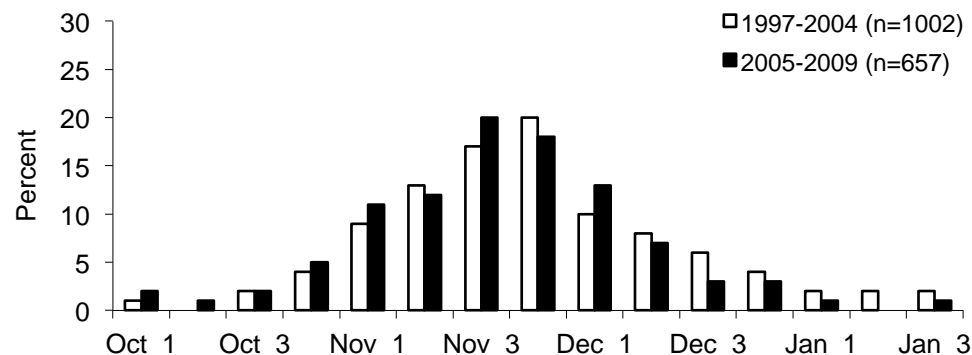
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region (n=225).



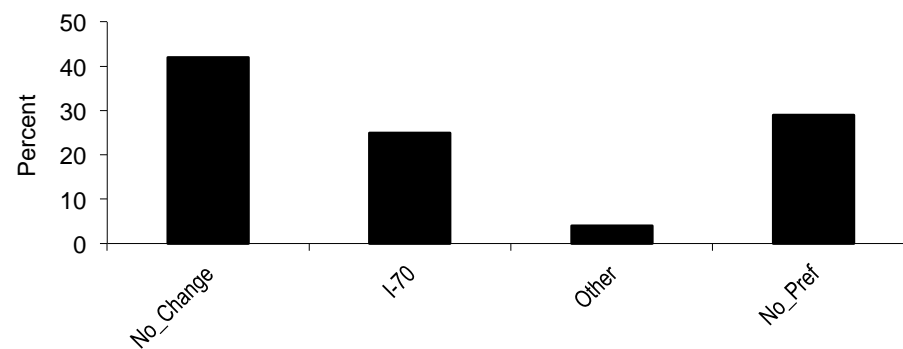
UPPER MISSISSIPPI: The third week of November was the most preferred week to hunt by Upper Mississippi hunters (20%) and 51% preferred either the third or fourth week of November or the first week in December. Twenty-four percent of respondents were dissatisfied with season dates and 9% with zone boundaries.



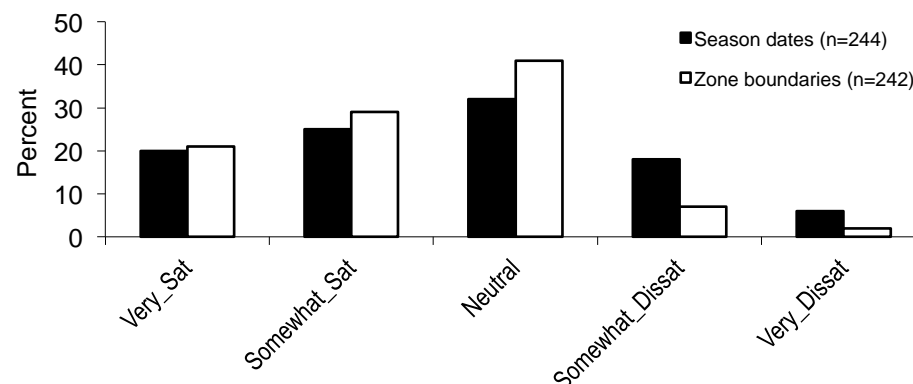
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region (n=251).



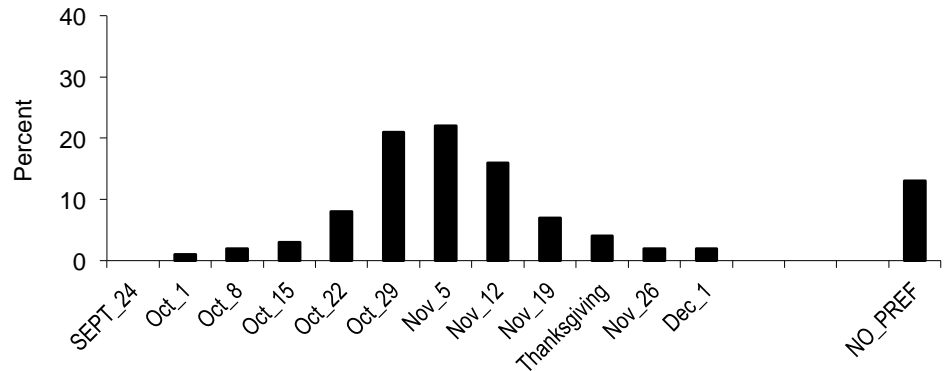
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Upper Mississippi Region.



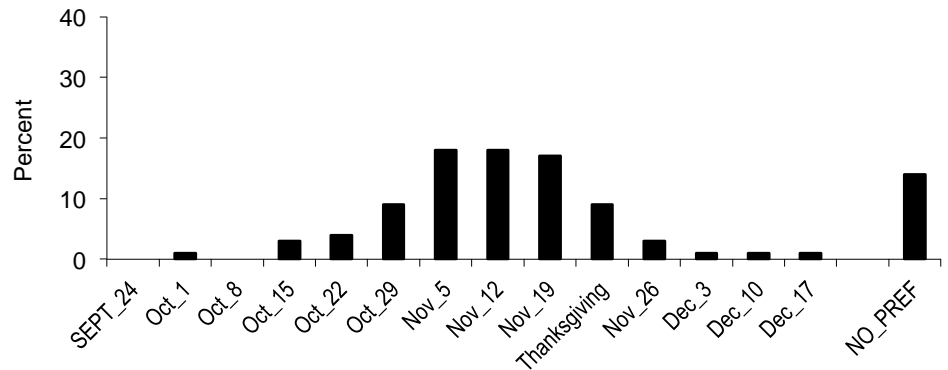
ST. CHARLES COUNTY: At the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, St. Charles County is perhaps the most storied of all duck hunting locations in Missouri. Based on hunter preference information and the results of the 2001 zoning workshop in St. Charles County, the North/Middle Zone boundary was moved north to accommodate hunters' desire for later hunting opportunity. Now, for a 60-day season, a similar number of hunters preferred the current Middle Zone opener around November 5 (22%) or the week before (21%). Thirty-five percent preferred an earlier season and 31% a later season. In the event of a 45-day season, there was virtually equal support for November 5 (18%), November 12 (18%), and November 19 (17%). No one date was clearly supported for a 30-day season.



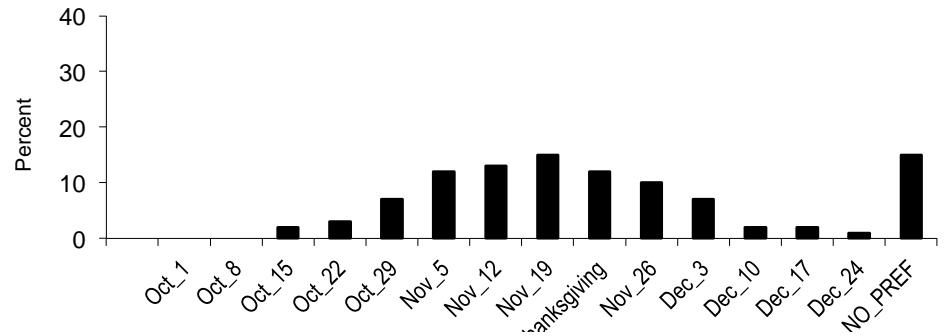
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in St. Charles County (n=260).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in St. Charles County (n=243).



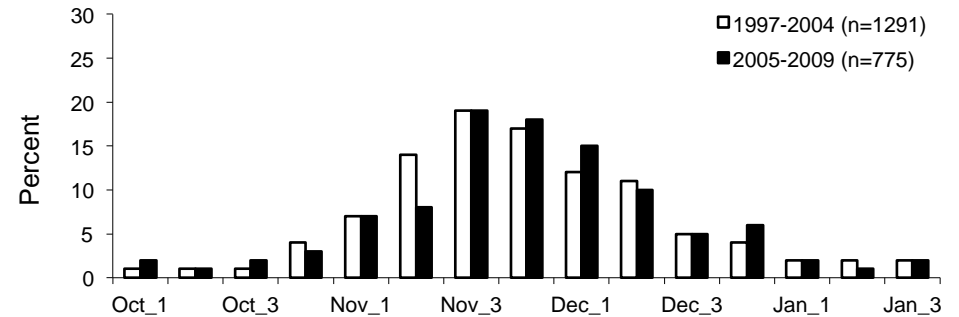
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in St. Charles County (n=244).



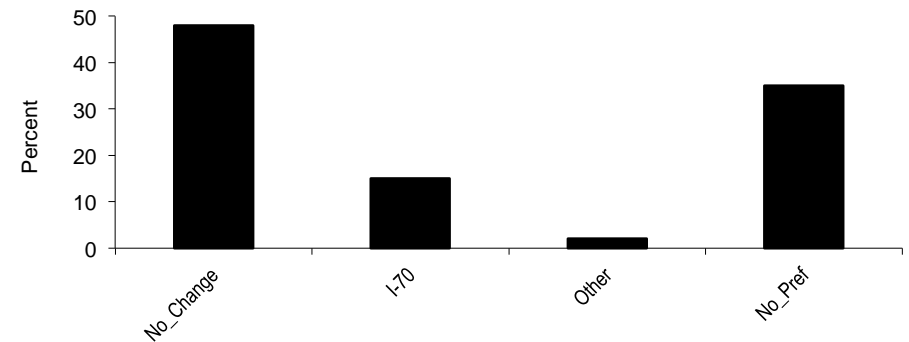
ST. CHARLES COUNTY: The timing of when hunters most preferred to hunt in St. Charles County is similar to hunters in the North Zone. Fifty-two percent indicated their most preferred week to hunt was either the third or fourth week in November or the first week in December. The third week in November was most frequently selected (19%) followed by the fourth week in November (18%). Hunters were generally satisfied or indifferent to zone boundary locations or season dates in this region with 19% indicating dissatisfaction with season dates and 6% with zone boundaries. Only 15% indicated they would like to return the zone boundary back to I-70.



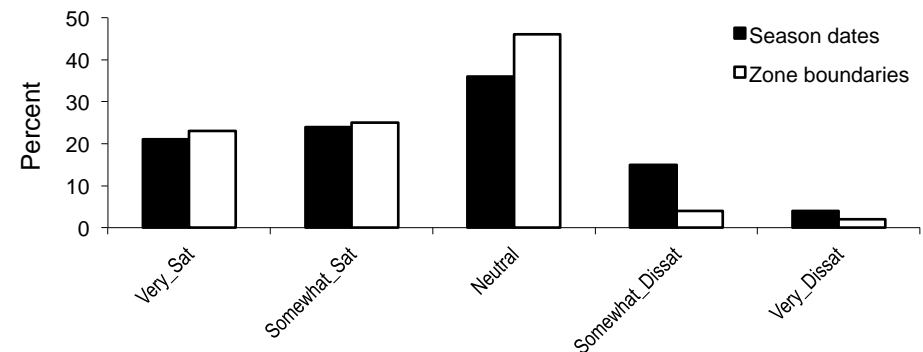
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted in St. Charles County: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted in St. Charles County (n=275).



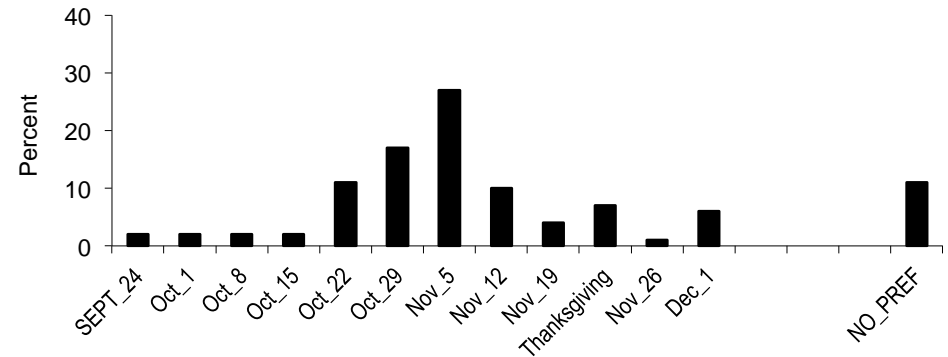
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in St. Charles County.



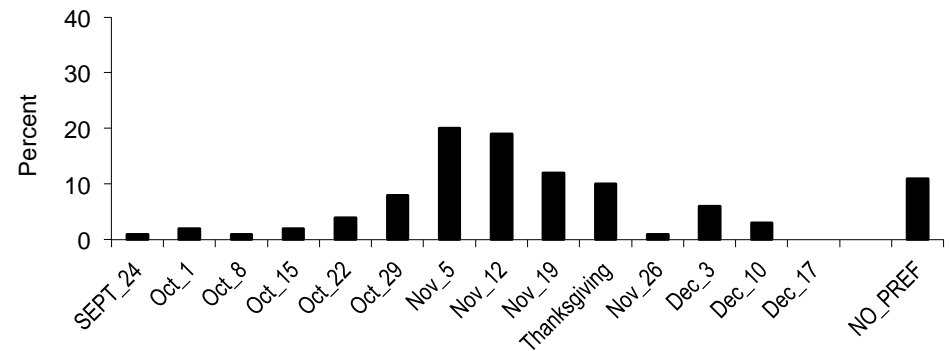
MISSOURI RIVER SOUTH: This Region includes shallow water habitats such as Grand Pass CA and deep water habitat including the Missouri River. Field hunting has also become much more popular in this region. Hunter season date preferences are more similar to those found among hunters in the Middle Zone than North Zone. During a 60-day season, 27% indicated they would like the season to open on November 5, which is the same as the Middle Zone. Only 36% indicated they would like the season to open when it does now or earlier; whereas, 28% indicated they would like a 60-day season to open even later than November 5. November 5 and November 12 were almost equally supported (20% and 19%, respectively) as opening dates in the event of a 45-day season. A season that opens on Thanksgiving Day and closed on December 23 was the most favored (23%) option for a 30-day season.



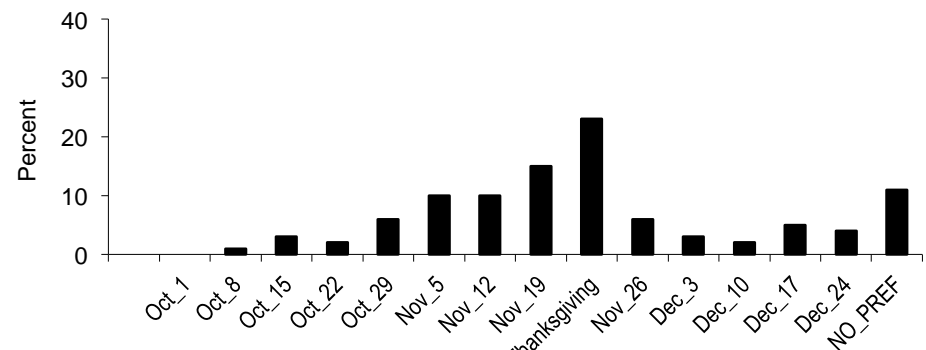
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region (n=112).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region (n=105).



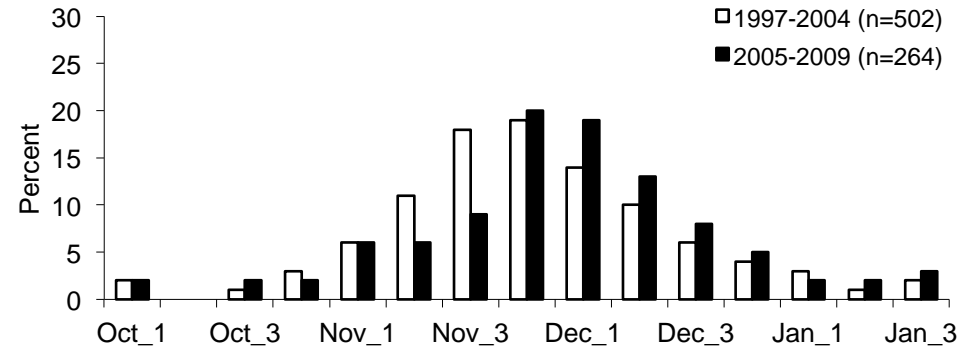
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region (n=105).



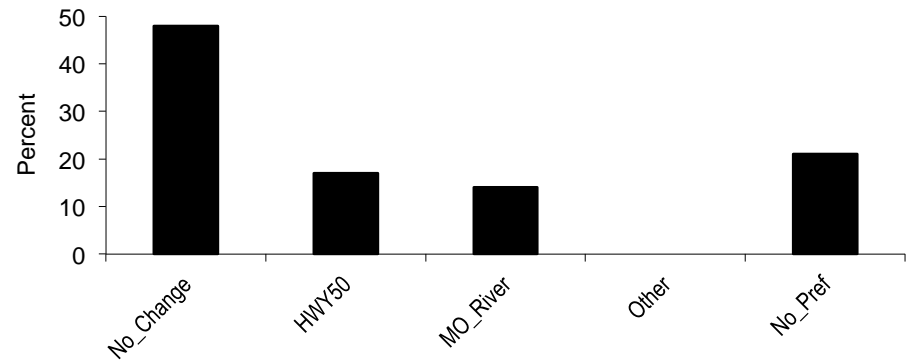
MISSOURI RIVER SOUTH: Hunter opinions regarding the week they most preferred to hunt matches their desire for later seasons. On average, from 1997-2004, 41% of respondents indicated their preferred week to hunt was on or before the third week in November. From 2005-2009, only 18% shared this opinion; whereas, nearly an equal number of hunters preferred the first week of December (19%) as the fourth week in November (20%). Although respondents from this region expressed later season date preferences, this did not result in higher levels of dissatisfaction compared to other regions in the North Zone. Only 23% indicated dissatisfaction with season dates and 13% with zone boundaries. Of those respondents who suggested a zone change, 17% suggested it should be moved further south to HWY 50 and 17% indicated it should be moved north to the Missouri River.



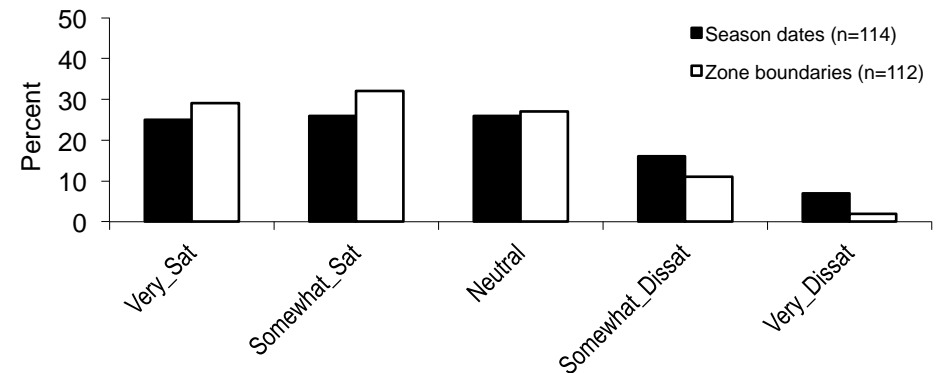
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region (n=119).



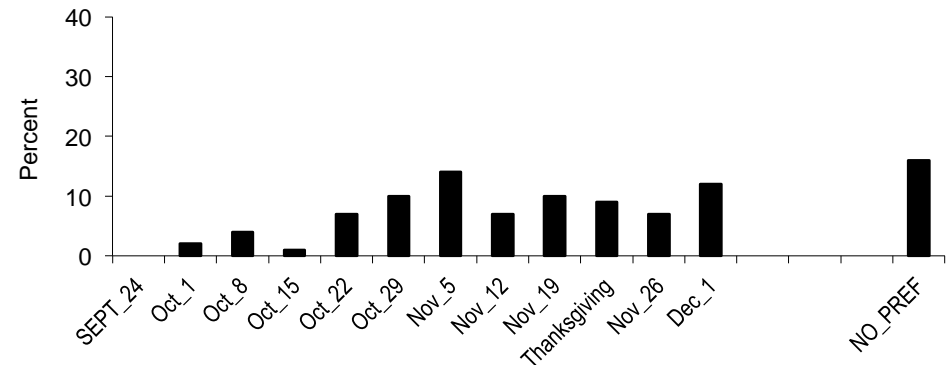
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Missouri River South Region.



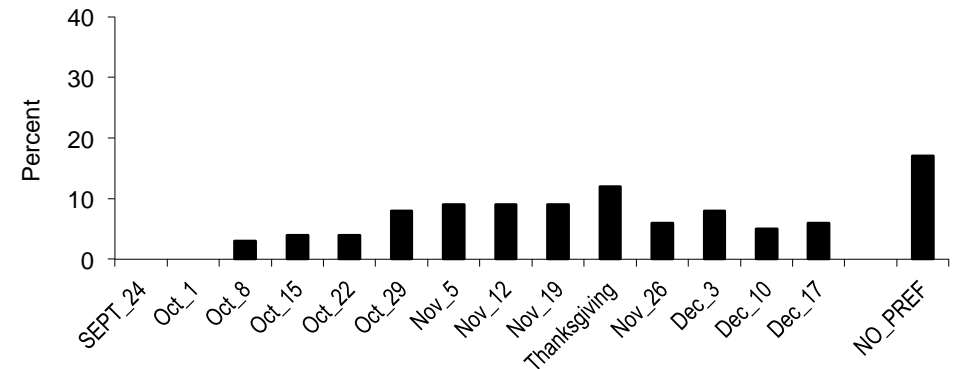
LOWER MISSOURI RIVER: A narrow and altered (levees, wing dams, etc.) Missouri River and floodplain, plus the Osage, Gasconade, and smaller rivers provide only limited wetlands for duck hunting. The region was included in the North Zone until zones were reconfigured in 1991, after which the Lower Missouri River Region was incorporated into the Middle Zone. Season date preferences are extremely varied and likely depend on whether hunters prefer early season wood duck opportunity on streams, late October diving duck migrations, early November mallard arrival, or hunting around freeze-up.



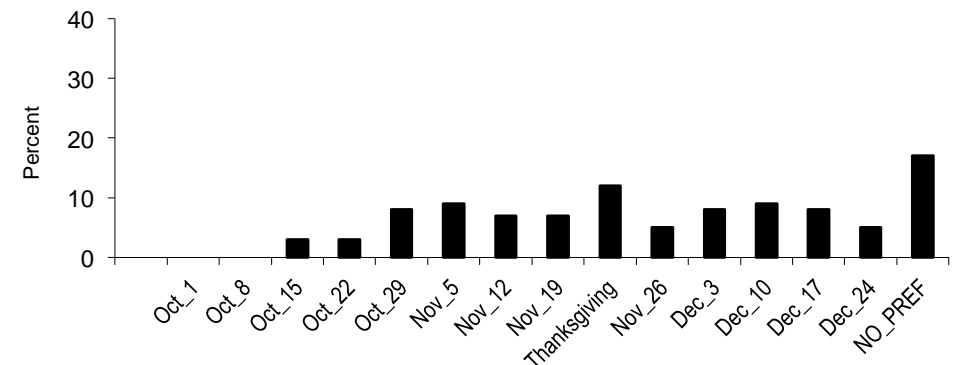
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lower Missouri River (n=81).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lower Missouri River (n=77).



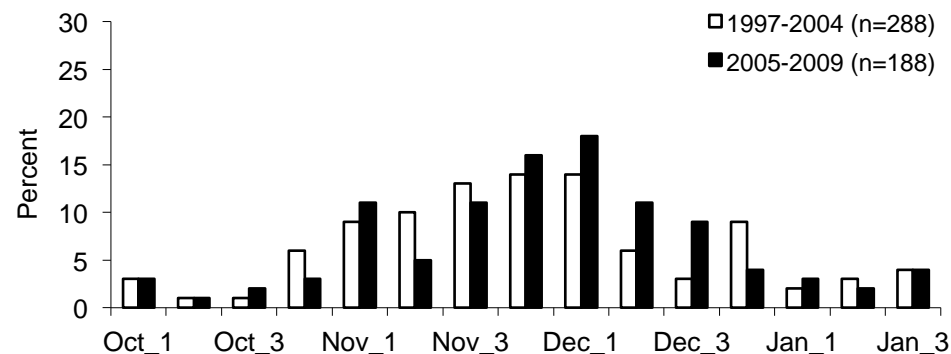
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lower Missouri River (n=76).



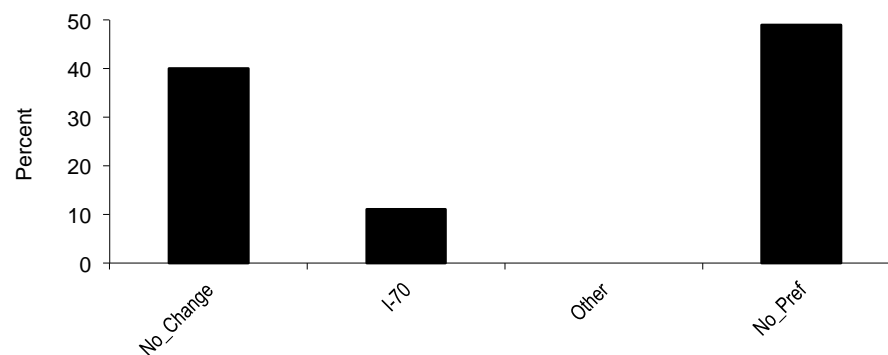
LOWER MISSOURI RIVER: The first week in December was cited as the most preferred week to hunt (18%) by respondents from this region, followed by the fourth week of November (16%), the third week of November (14%), the second week of December (14%), the third week of November (11%) and second week of December (11%). Forty percent of respondents indicated they preferred the current North Zone boundary for eastern Missouri although 11% expressed dissatisfaction with zone boundaries and 31% were dissatisfied with season dates.



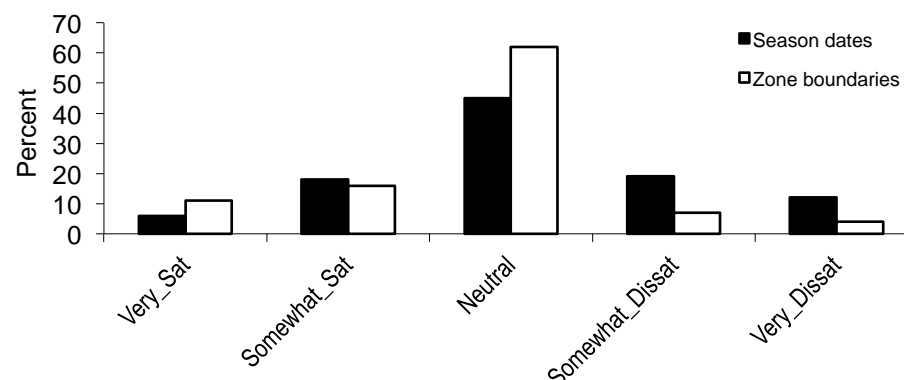
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Lower Missouri River Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Lower Missouri River Region (n=95).



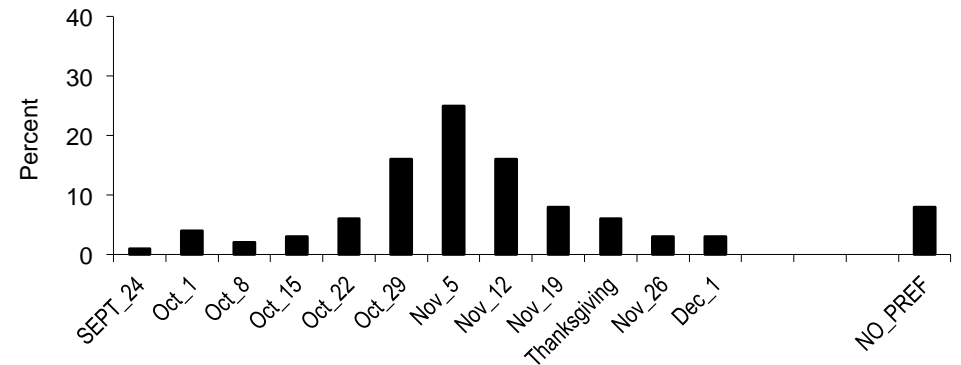
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunt the Lower Missouri River Region.



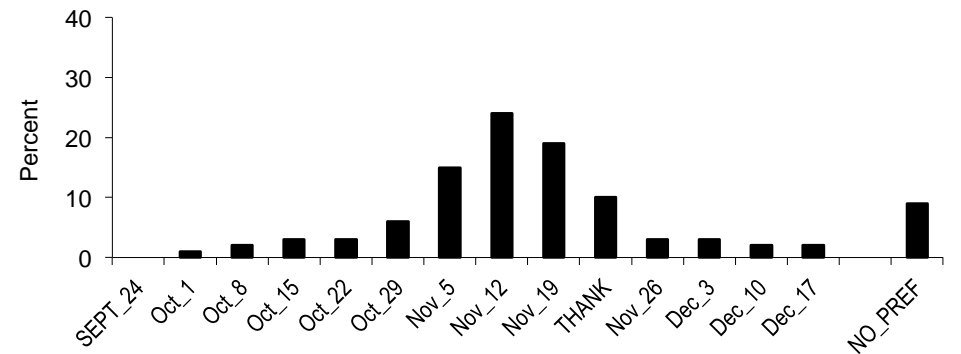
SCHELL-OSAGE: Significant public and private wetland restoration efforts have greatly enhanced hunting opportunity in this region. Much of this opportunity occurs in shallow-water habitat. Today, 25% of hunters from this region indicated they like the current opener around November 5 for a 60-day season, but 32% would like to see the season opened earlier, and 36% would preferred it to open later. During a 45-day season, hunters generally would preferred the season to open a week later than during a 60-day season. In the event of a 30-day season, 18% indicated they would like the season to open on November 19 but 16% expressed a desire for an even later opener on Thanksgiving.



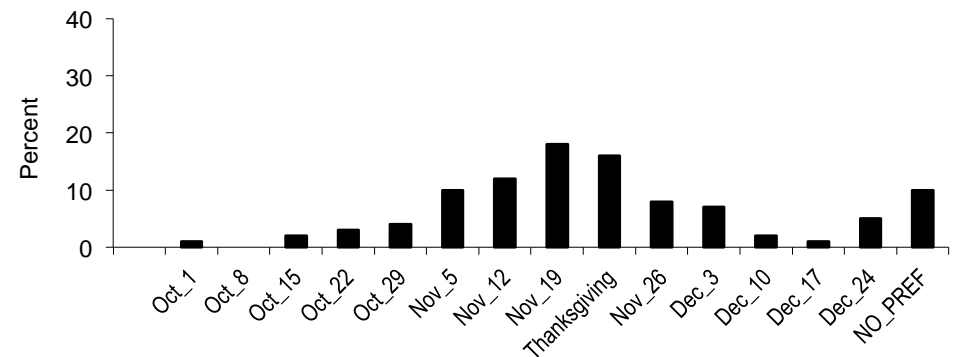
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Schell-Osage Region (n=191).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Schell-Osage Region (n=186).



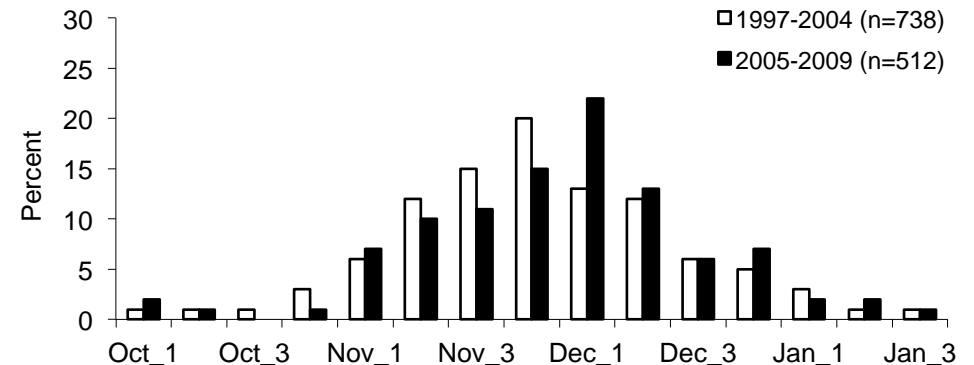
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Schell-Osage Region (n=182).



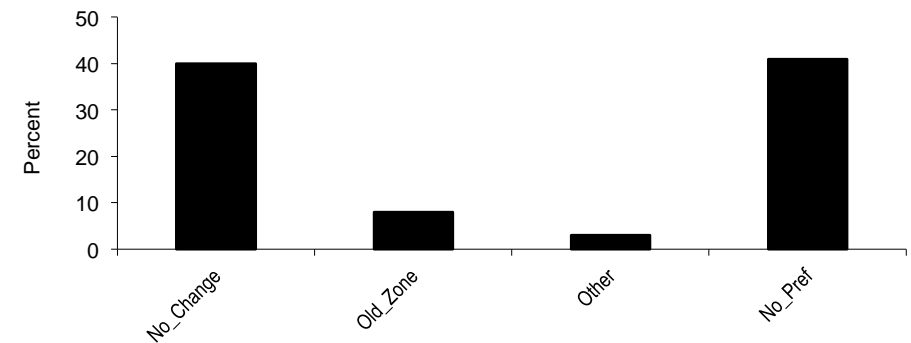
SCHELL-OSAGE: The timing of the week hunters most preferred to hunt over the past five years was later than during the previous 8 years of 60-day seasons. The first week of December is now the most popular week to hunt, with 22% of hunters selecting it as their preferred week to hunt. Forty-eight percent indicated their preferred week to hunt was sometime between the third week of November and first week of December. Only 15% of hunters in this region indicated they were dissatisfied with season dates and 11% with zone boundaries.



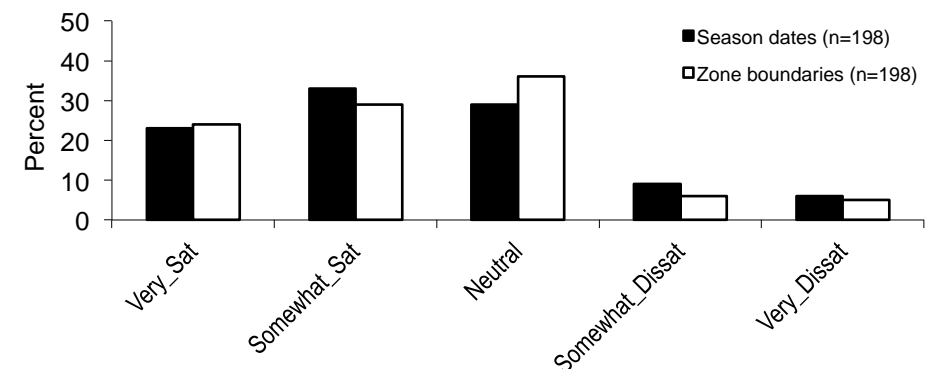
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted Schell-Osage Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Schell-Osage Region (n=223).



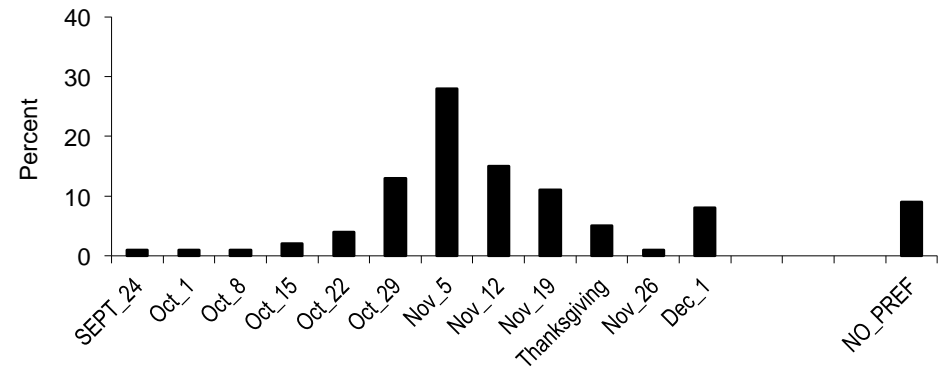
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Schell-Osage Region.



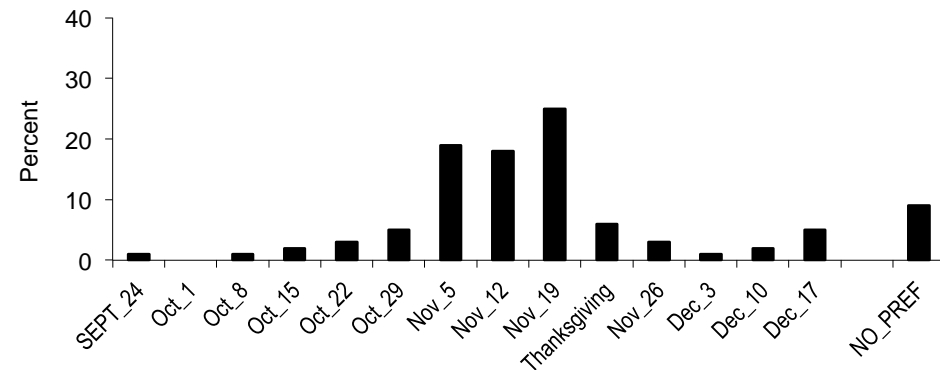
TRUMAN: With completion of Truman reservoir in the late 1970s, the distribution of mallards changed dramatically. However, as is the case with most reservoirs, as it has aged it has become less attractive to ducks. Good wetland habitat is provided in wet years when rising water floods moist soil habitat. Hunting opportunity ranges from shallow water, especially in wet years, to deep water. Similar to the Schell-Osage Region, 28% of respondents indicated they preferred the current opening date around November 5. However, those who desired a different opening date generally preferred something later with only 22% selecting an option before November 5, compared to 40% who selected a season that would open after November 5. Hunters around Truman expressed the desire for a later season in the event of a 45-day season with 25% preferring the season to open two weeks later than it would during a 60-day season. Hunters expressed little consensus about the timing of a 30-day season.



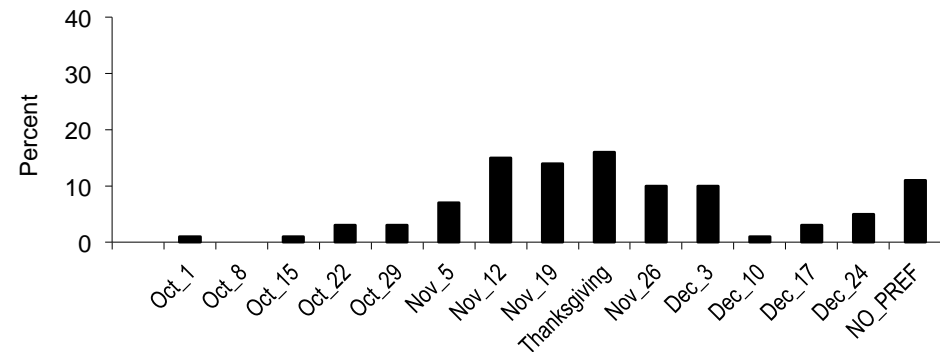
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=158).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=150).



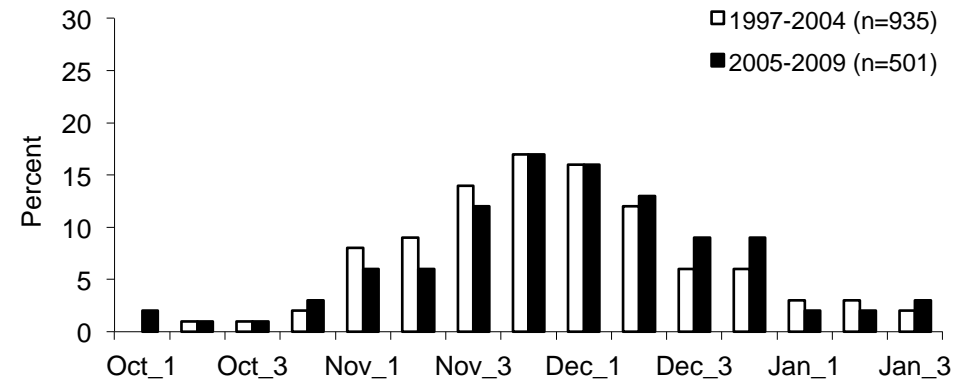
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted Truman Region (n=149).



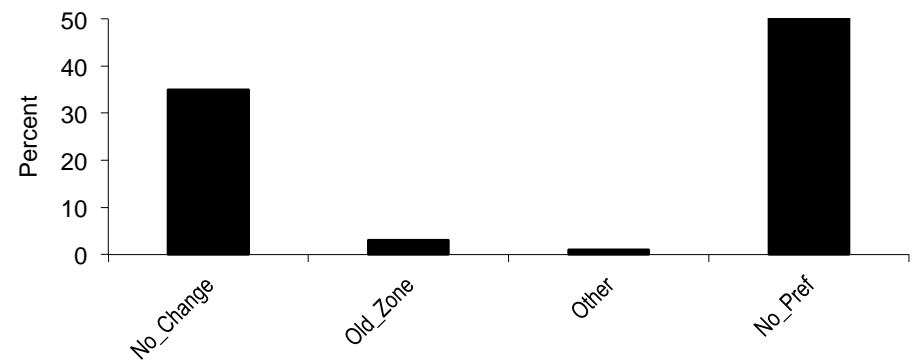
TRUMAN: The week hunters most preferred to hunt was similar among hunters from the Schell-Osage and Truman Regions. Nearly an equal number of hunters from the Truman Region indicated that they preferred to hunt most during the last week of November (17%) or the first week of December (16%). Twenty-one percent of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied with season dates and only 7% were dissatisfied with zone boundaries.



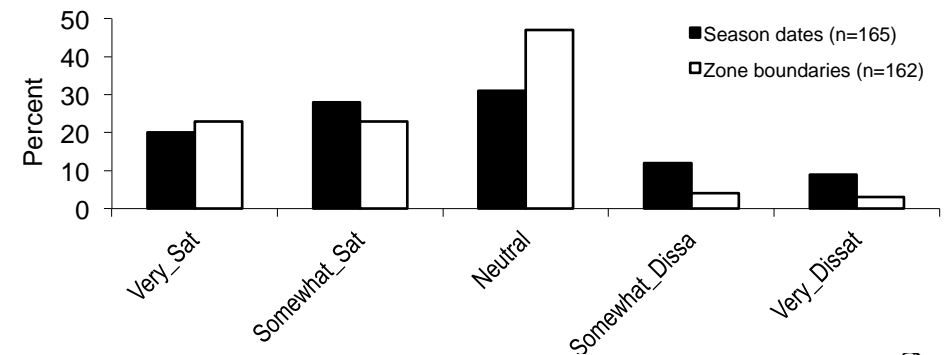
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Truman Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Truman Region (n=181).



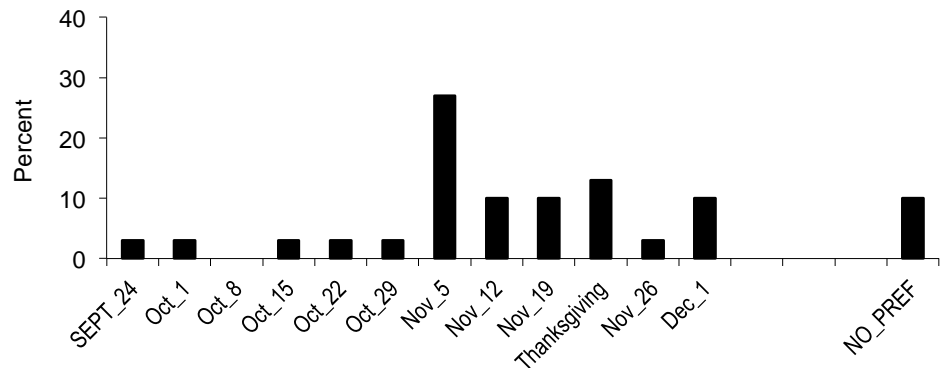
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Truman Region.



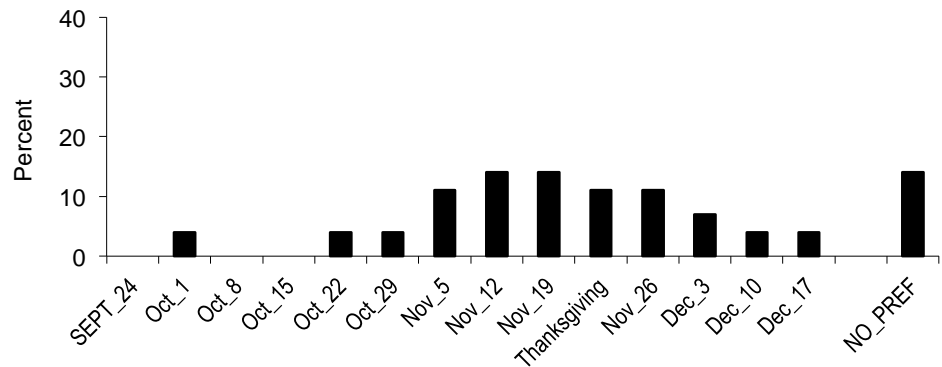
LAKE OZARK/OSAGE RIVER: Because of deep water (reservoirs) and flowing water (Osage River), this region offers late season hunting opportunity for mallards, which often remain well into the winter. In addition, the streams in this region provide early wood duck hunting opportunity. Based on a very limited sample size, respondents most frequently selected the current Middle Zone opening date around November 5 as their preferred option for a 60-day season. However, 46% indicated a later season preference and, on average, a November 12 opener was preferred during a 60-day season. Hunter preferences were widely varied in regards to a 45- or 30-day season.



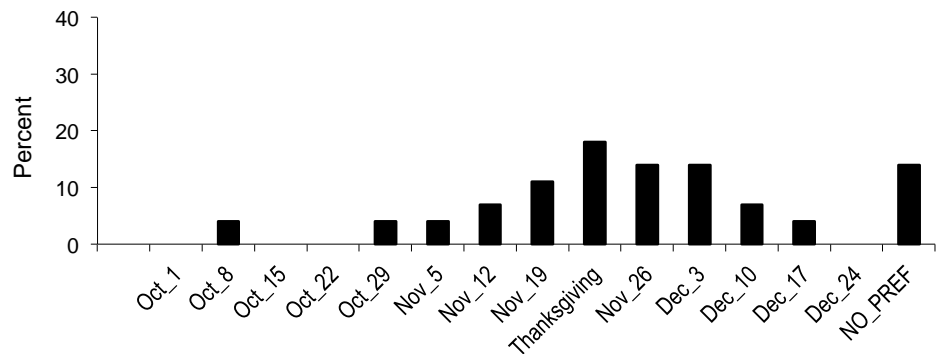
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=30).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=28).



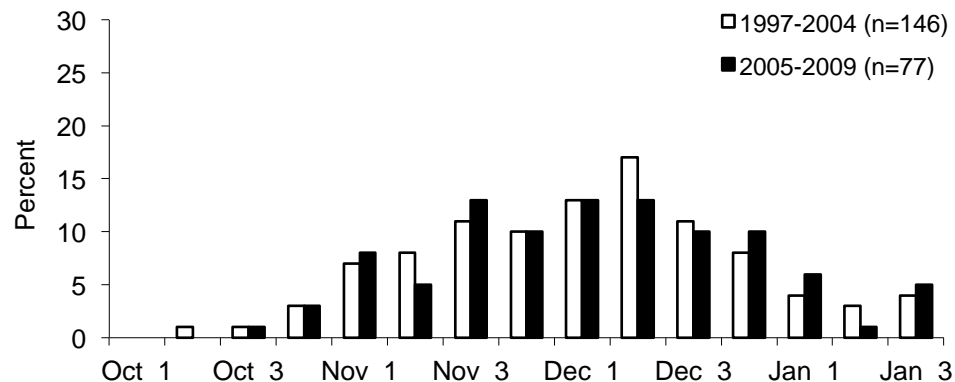
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=28).



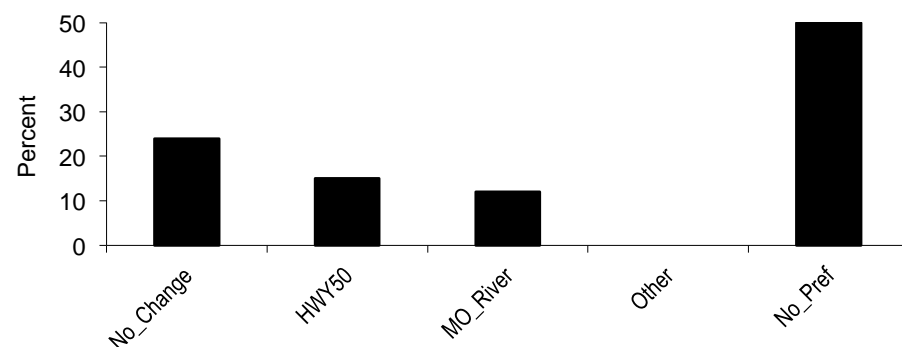
LAKE OZARK/OSAGE RIVER: Respondents held a wide range of opinions concerning the week they most preferred to hunt. Preferences for December hunting likely reflect deep water hunting opportunity after the freeze-up of shallow wetlands. Given the wide-range of opinions about the timing of duck season, it is not surprising that 26% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with season dates and 25% with zone boundaries.



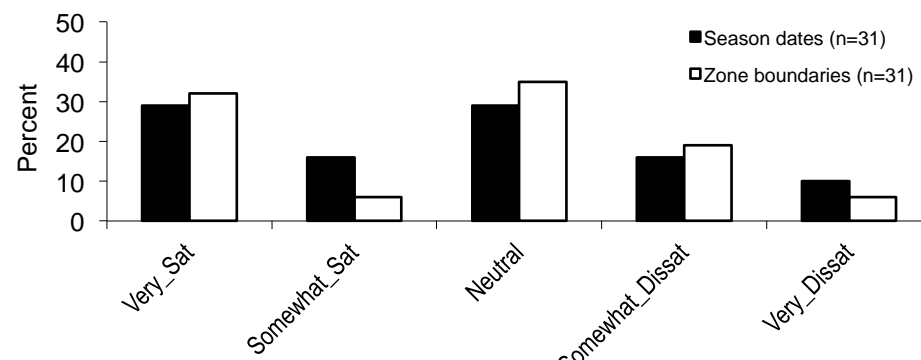
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region (n=34).



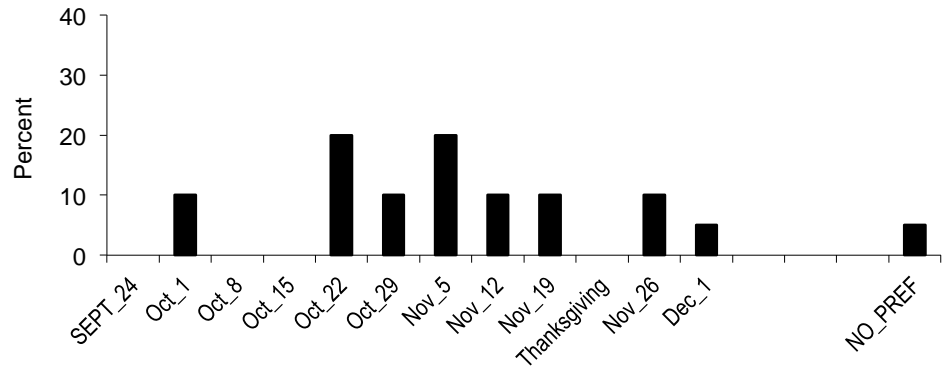
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Lake Ozark/Osage River Region.



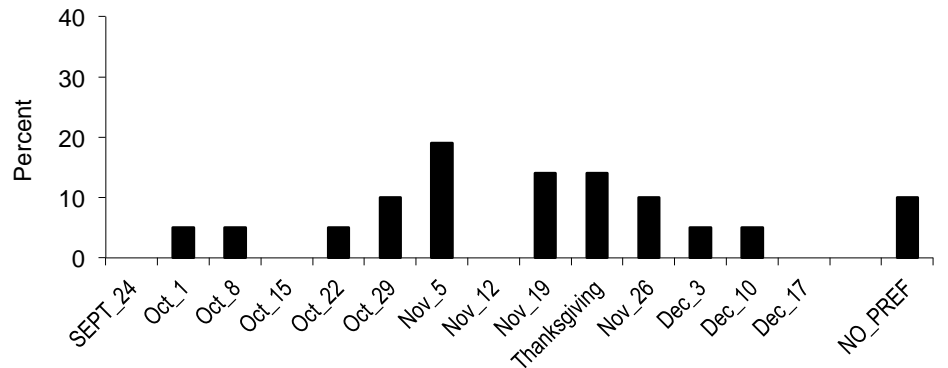
MID-MISSISSIPPI RIVER: The primary wetland habitats in this region are associated with the Mississippi River and floodplain. Wetlands are limited along this portion of the Mississippi River compared to the Bootheel or along the river above St. Louis. Based on a very limited sample size, hunters expressed a wide range of opinions about the timing of 60-, 45-, and 30-day duck seasons.



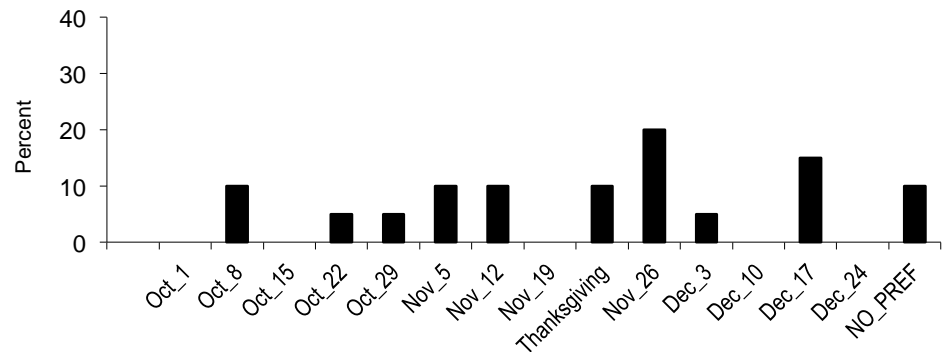
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=20).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=21).



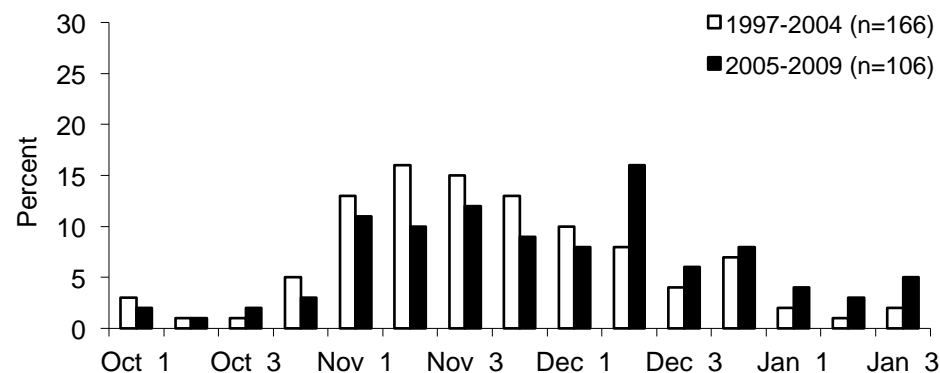
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=20).



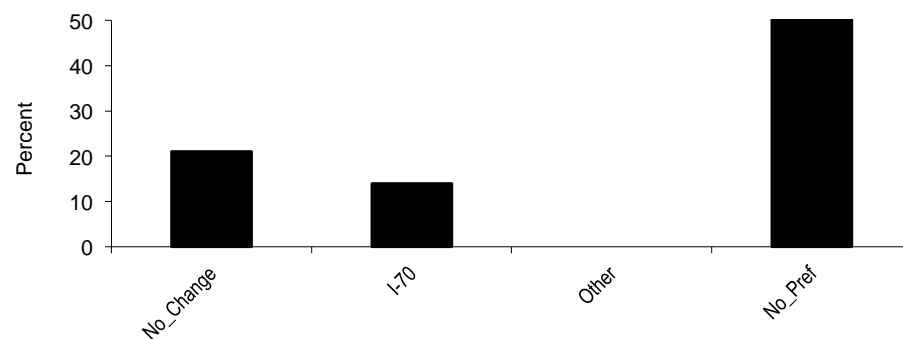
MID-MISSISSIPPI RIVER: Similar to opinions about season dates, hunters indicated a wide-range of possibilities for their most preferred week to hunt. Although hunters expressed a diversity of opinions about season timing, only 15% indicated they were dissatisfied with season dates and zone boundaries.



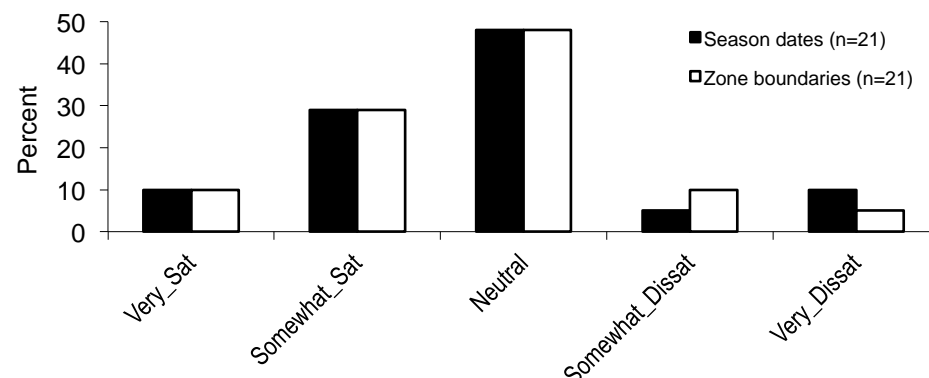
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi River Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



North Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Mid-Mississippi Region (n=28).



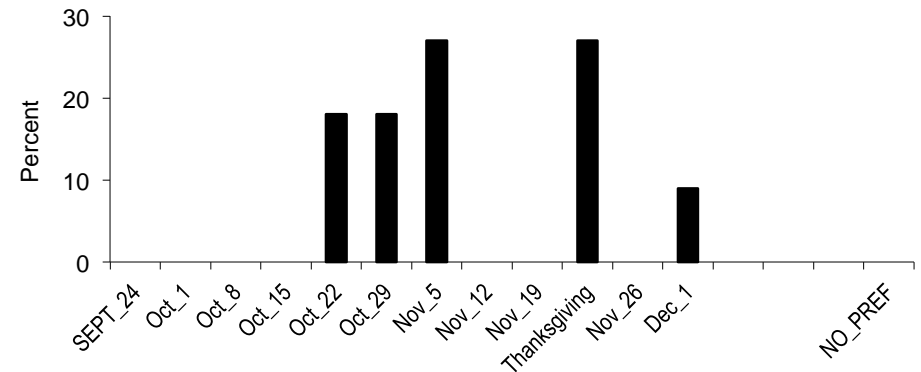
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Mississippi Region.



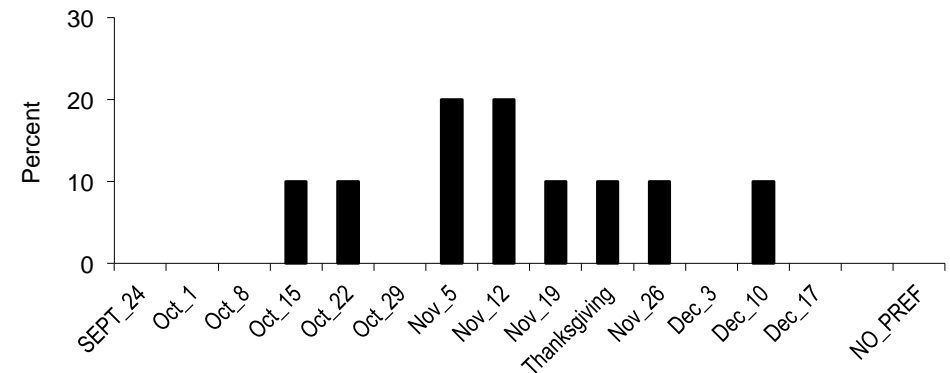
OZARKS: Limited waterfowl hunting takes place in the Ozarks. Hunting is primarily for wood ducks on Ozark streams along with some hunting for early season migrants, and late-season mallard hunting on Clearwater Reservoir. The sample size is too small to draw conclusions about season date preferences.



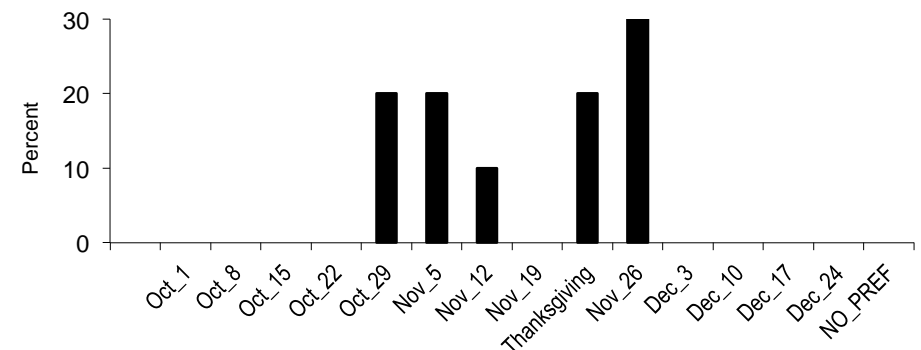
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=11).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=10).



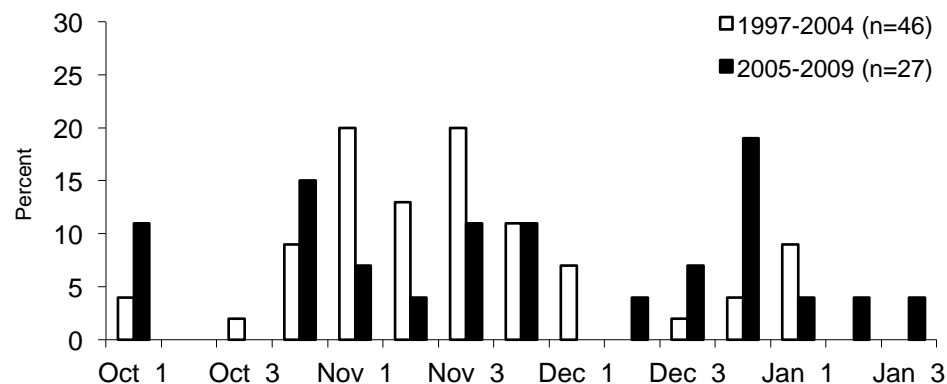
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=10).



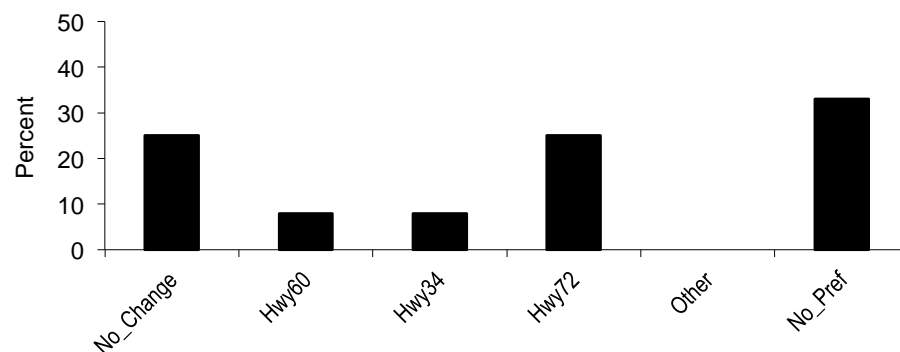
OZARKS: Based on a very limited sample size, it appears hunters in the Ozarks have a wide range of opinions about the best time to hunt ducks. These differences likely reflect some hunter preferences for early season wood duck hunting along streams and others' preferences to hunt ponds and rivers later in the season when shallow water freezes.



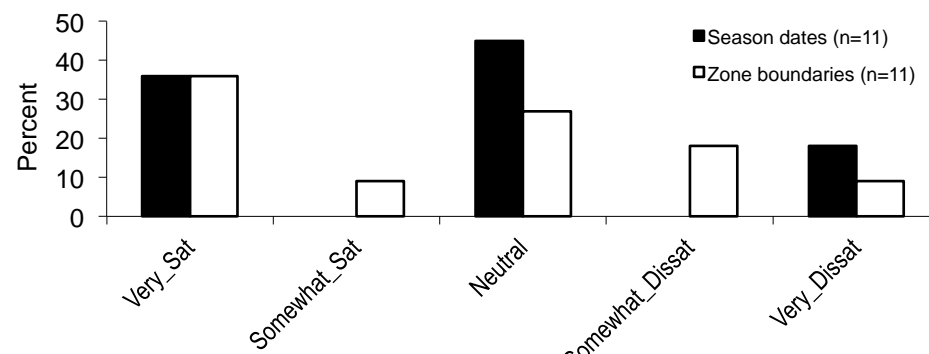
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Ozarks Region (n=12).



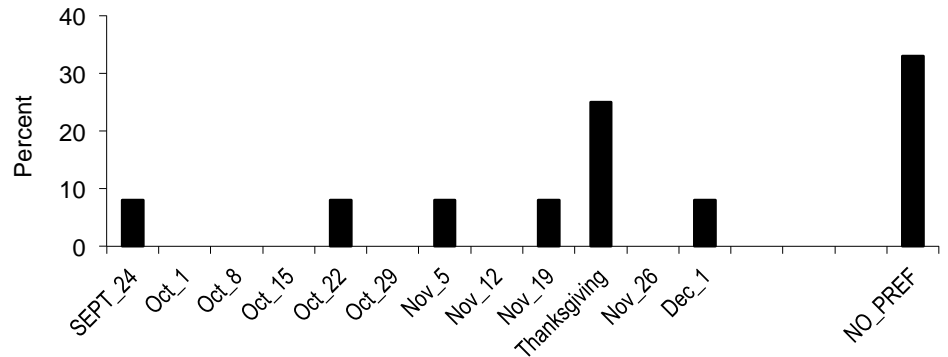
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Ozarks Region.



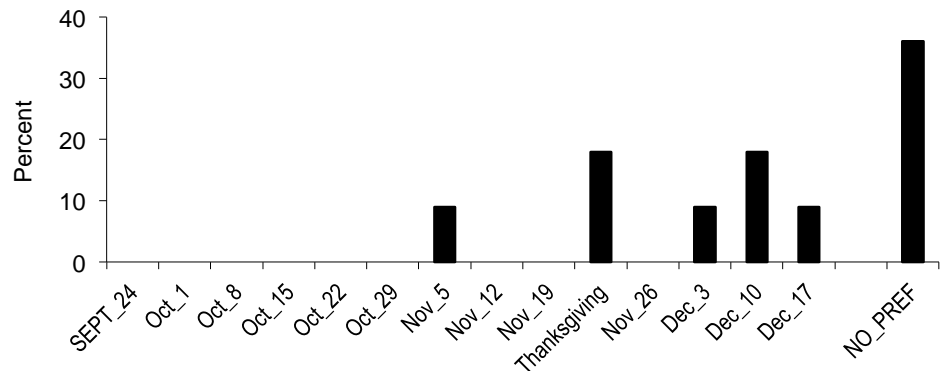
BARTON COUNTY: In 1991, a change in the South Zone boundary was made to accommodate early season hunting opportunity in Barton County (Middle Zone) yet retain later season hunting opportunity on Stockton Lake and Spring River. This change was in lieu of a proposed boundary of I-44 made initially in 1990. In response to hunter input at the 2001 workshops in Carthage and Lamar, the boundary was moved to HWY 54. Very few respondents in the 2009 survey indicated that they hunted in Barton County.



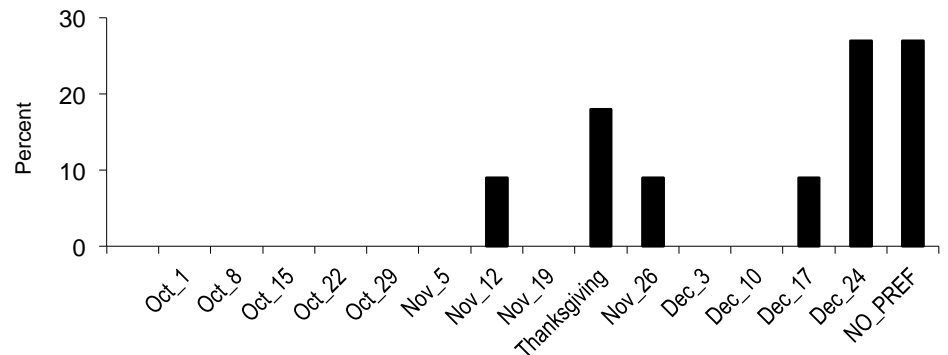
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=12).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=11).



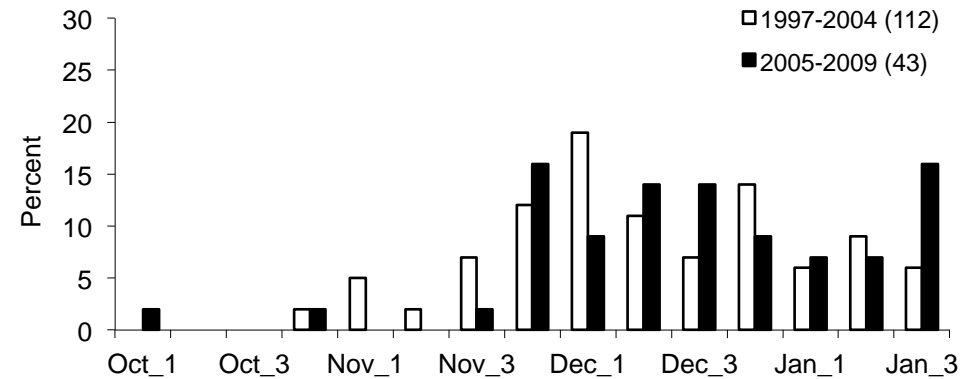
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=11).



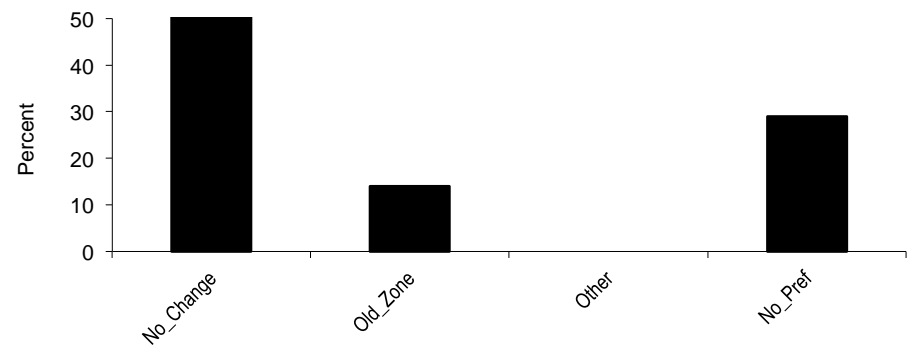
BARTON COUNTY: Based on a very limited sample, it appears that hunters in Barton County preferred later seasons than in years past. During the last five years, 76% percent of respondents indicated their most preferred week to hunt was in December or January; however, 16% preferred the last week in November. Fourteen percent of respondents who hunted in Barton County indicated they would prefer the zone boundary that was in place prior to 2001.



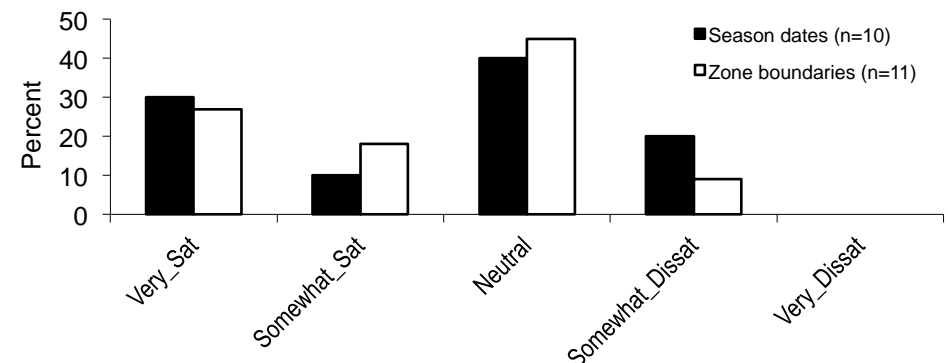
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted in Barton County: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted in Barton County (n=14).



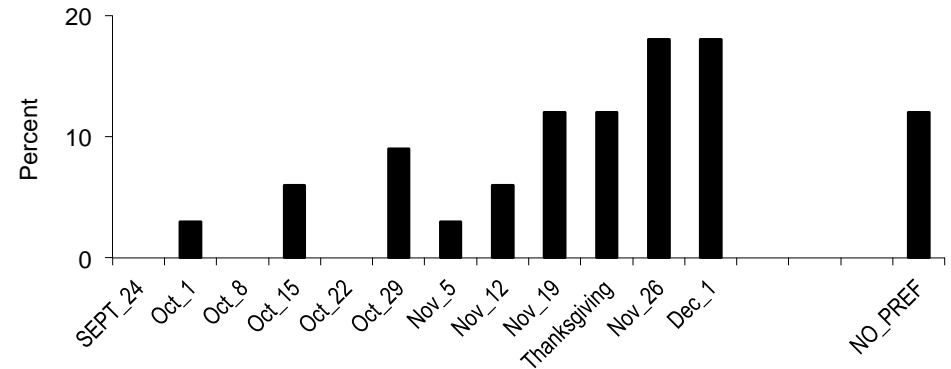
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in Barton County.



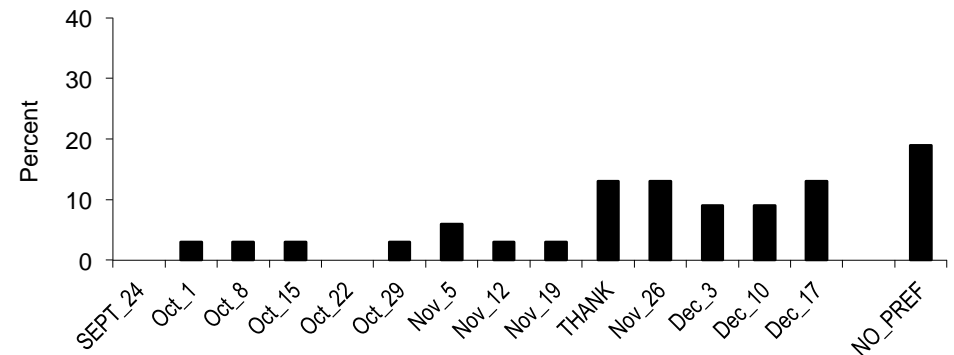
STOCKTON: As shallow wetlands freeze throughout the state, some mallards shift from shallow water habitat to Southwest Missouri reservoirs, where they often remain well into winter. When duck zones initially were established in 1977, Stockton Lake was in the North Zone. This was changed when zones were reconfigured in 1980; the original boundary in Southwest Missouri of HWY 160 was amended to HWY 54. Stockton remained in the South Zone when 3 zones were established in 1991, even though the area to the west was incorporated into the Middle Zone to accommodate earlier season preferences. Based on a very limited sample size, an equal percentage of respondents (12%) preferred a 60-day season open November 19, earlier than the current opener, or Thanksgiving Day, the current South Zone opener. However, 18% preferred a later opening date of November 26 and an additional 18% preferred a December 1 opener. Twenty-eight percent preferred an opening date earlier than November 19 for a 60-day season. Hunters were very divided in their opinions about 45- or 30-day seasons.



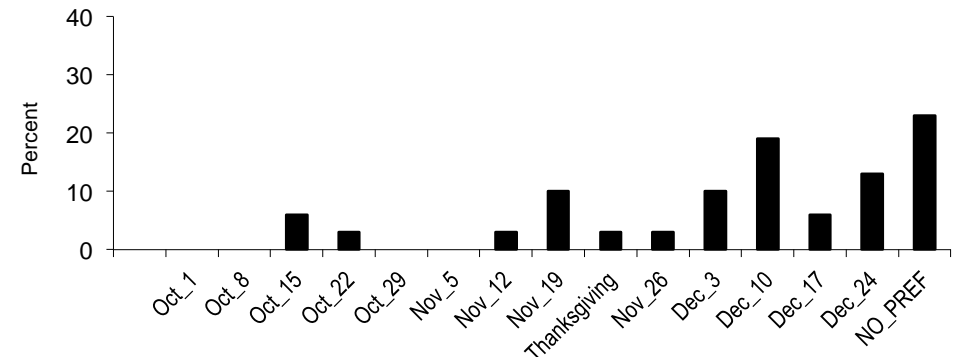
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=33).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=32).



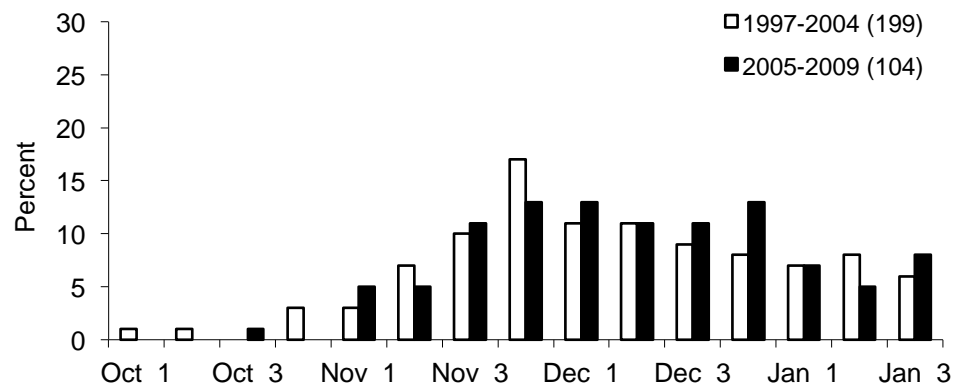
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=31).



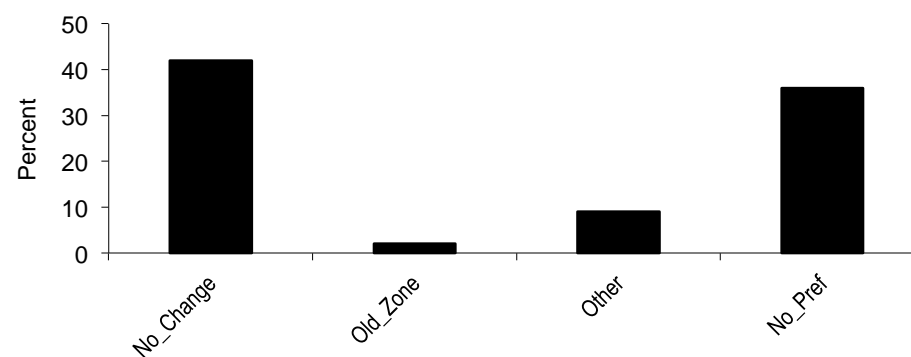
STOCKTON: Hunters appeared divided about the timing of the week they most preferred to hunt with nearly an equal percentage of hunters selecting from the third week of November through the fourth week of December. Twenty-two percent of respondents from this region were dissatisfied with season dates and 17% with zone boundaries.



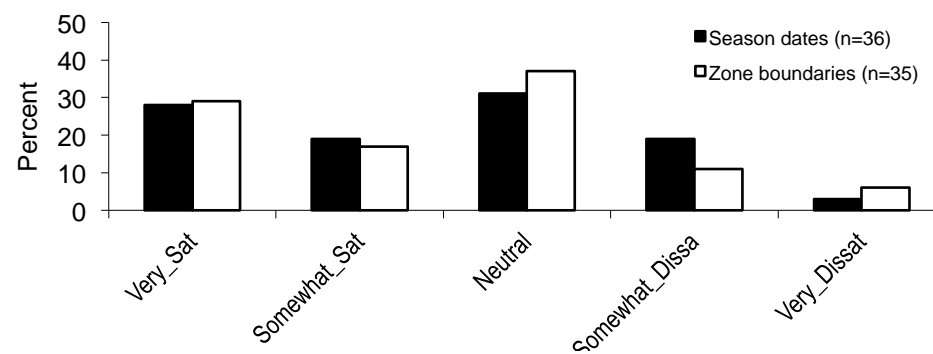
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Stockton Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Stockton Region (n=45).



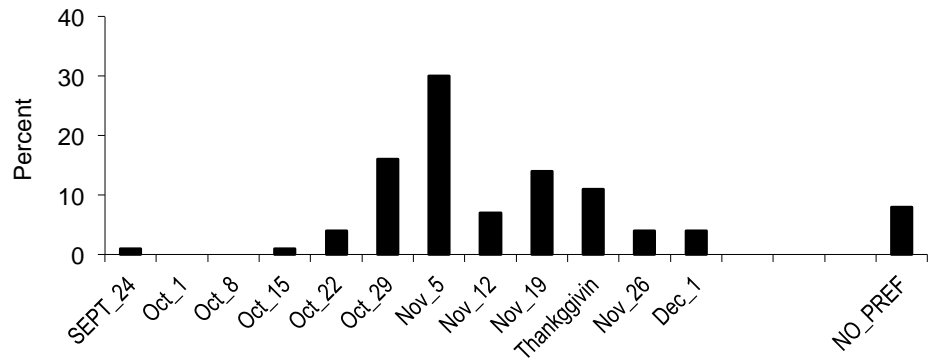
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted in the Stockton Region.



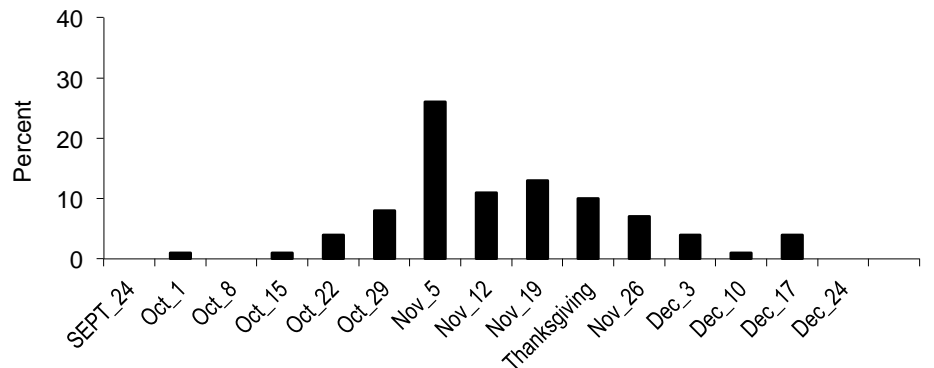
DUCK CREEK: Combined, Duck Creek CA and Mingo NWR (almost 30,000 acres) provide one of Missouri's primary wetland complexes. Flooded bottomland hardwoods are found in few other locations in the state. This region also represents one of the main areas MDC receives inquiries about potential zone boundary changes. The results of the 2009 survey indicate that 30% of hunters in this region preferred the current Middle Zone opening date around November 5 for a 60-day season; however, 40% preferred a later opening date, and 22% an earlier opening date. If this region would open on Thanksgiving, similar to the South Zone, it would be later than desired by 73% of the hunters in this region. Somewhat surprising, 40% of respondents do not want the season to open any later than it does now during a 45-day season. Opinions were much more divided in regards to a 30-day season.



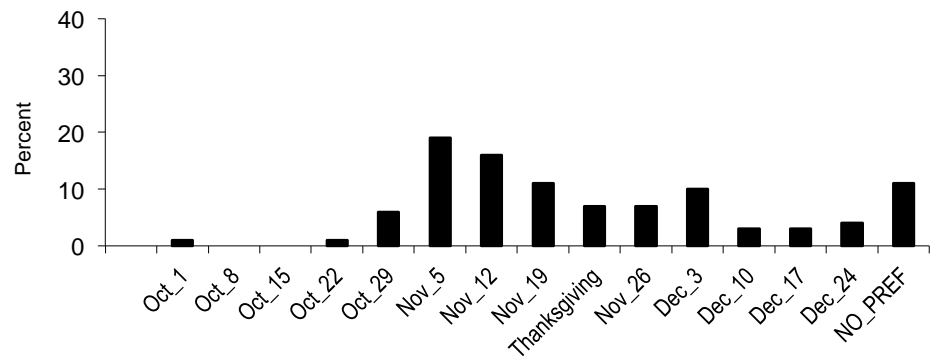
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=74).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=72).



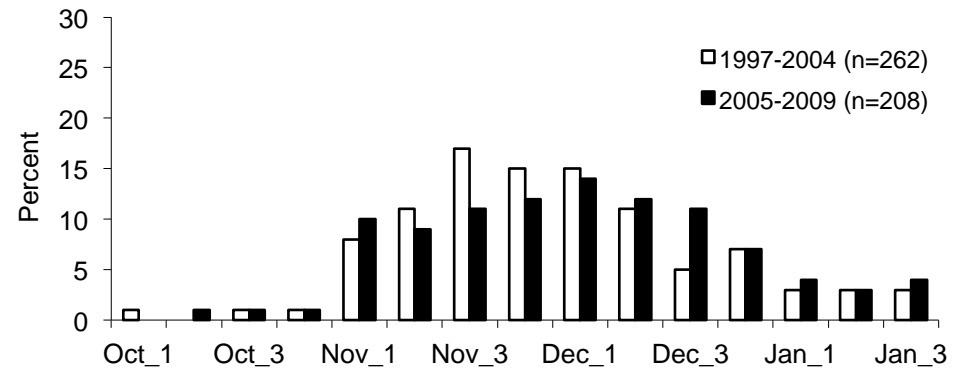
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=70).



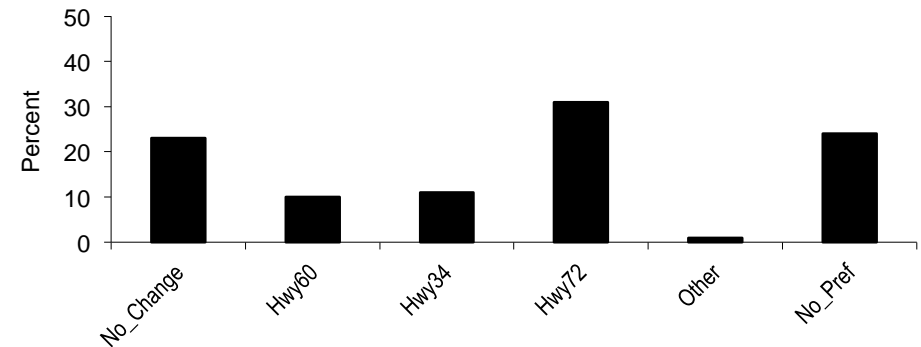
DUCK CREEK: Ducks first arrive at Duck Creek and Mingo at approximately the same time as in the remainder of the state, but often are present through much of the winter. Thus, hunters are able to take advantage of early season migration events and late season opportunity as ducks frequently redistribute in response to freeze/thaw conditions. As a result of the extended period of duck use in this region, there is little agreement about the week hunters most preferred to hunt. Some hunters prefer hunting opportunity for early season migrants and the chance to take advantage of “flight” days, while others prefer late season hunting. Similar numbers of hunters indicated their preferred week to hunt was anywhere from the third week of November to the third week of December. Twenty-eight percent indicated dissatisfaction with season dates and 23% with zone boundaries. Of those who had an opinion about zone boundaries, 41% would like to see it moved to HWY 72 and 30% would like to see it remain where it is.



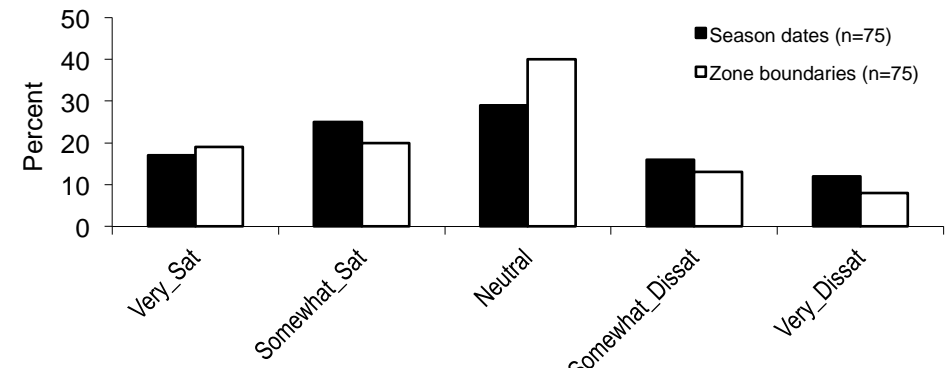
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region (n=80).



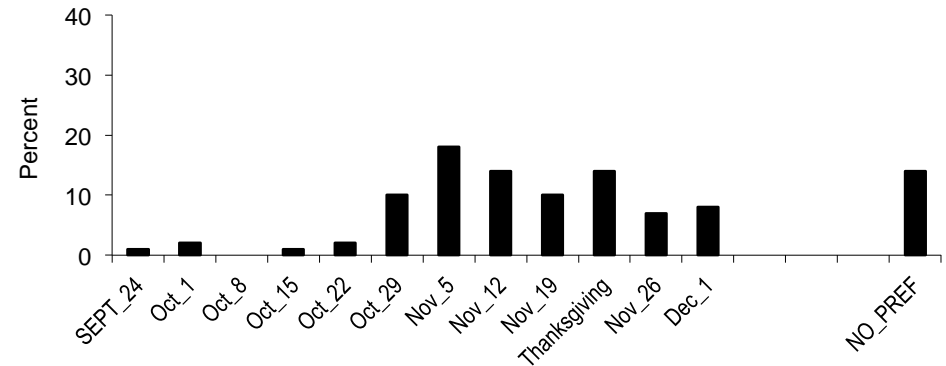
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Duck Creek Region.



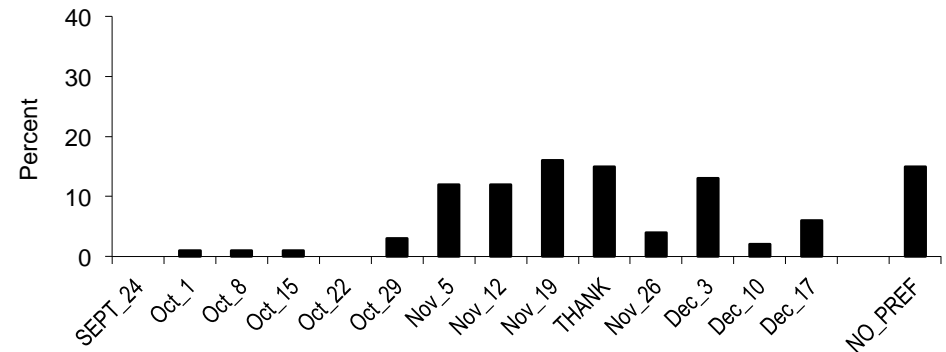
OTTER SLOUGH: Acquisition and expansion of Otter Slough CA during the 1980s and 1990s, private wetland development, and rice production have expanded the amount of shallow water habitat available. This Region was in the South Zone until 1986, when adjustments in zone boundaries separated it from habitats associated with the Lower Mississippi and St. Francis rivers. The addition of a third zone in 1991 allowed season timing to include much of December as seasons progressively increased in length to 60 days by 1997. This region also represents one of the primary areas MDC receives inquiries about potential zone boundary changes. Hunters most frequently indicated they would like a 60-day season to open on November 5 (18%), but only slightly fewer would like the season to open on either November 12, November 19, or Thanksgiving. Overall, 16% would like an earlier opener, and 53% a later opener. However, if this region was included in the South Zone with a Thanksgiving opener, the season would be later than desired by 58% of the hunters. On average, hunters would like a 60-day season to open a week later than it currently does in this region. Hunters expressed little agreement about when they would like a 45- or 30-day season to occur.



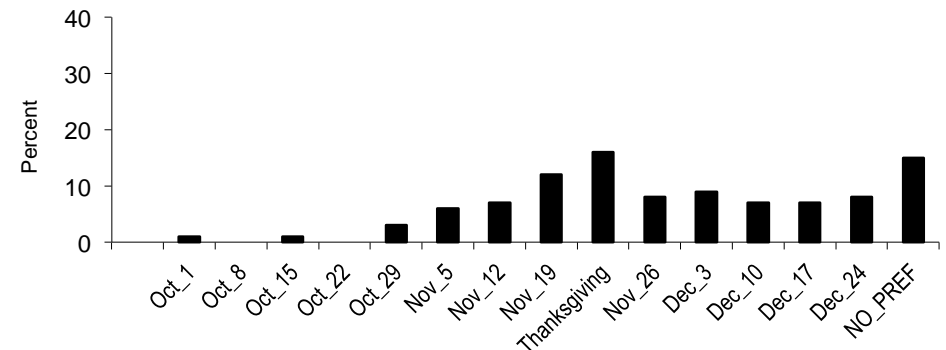
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=166).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=153).



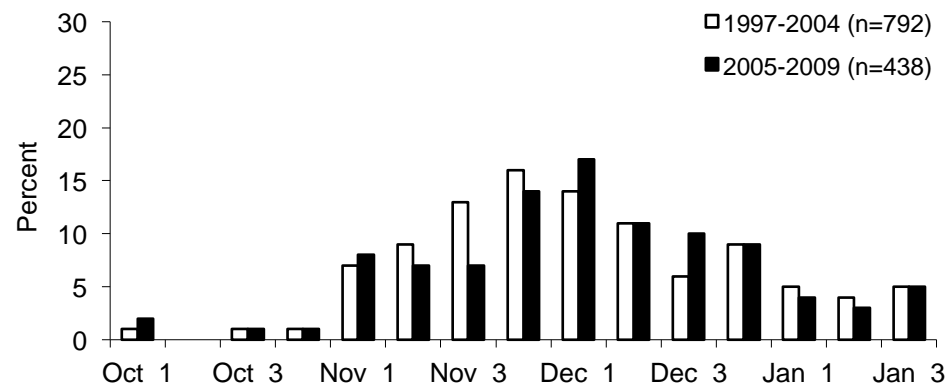
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=154).



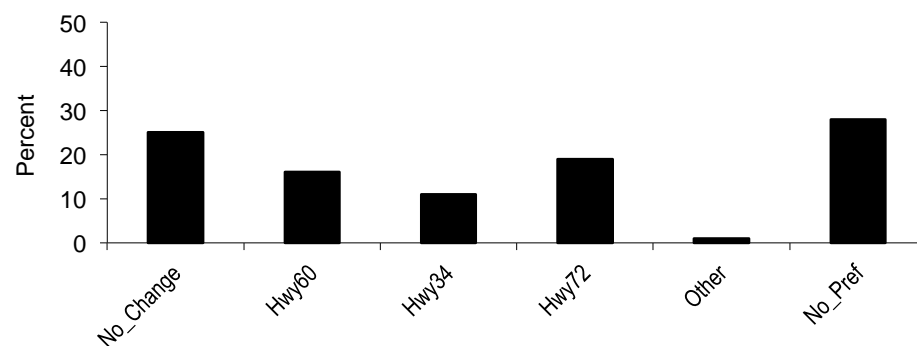
OTTER SLOUGH: Similar to almost every region of the state, hunters in the Otter Slough Region indicated they most preferred to hunt during the last week of November and the first week of December. Overall, 36% indicated their most preferred week to hunt was in November, 47% in December, and 12% in January. Twenty-nine percent of respondents from this region expressed dissatisfaction with season dates and 26% with zone boundaries. While 28% indicated they had no preference where the zone boundary should be located, of those with an opinion, 35% preferred the current location and 26% felt it should be moved to HWY 72.



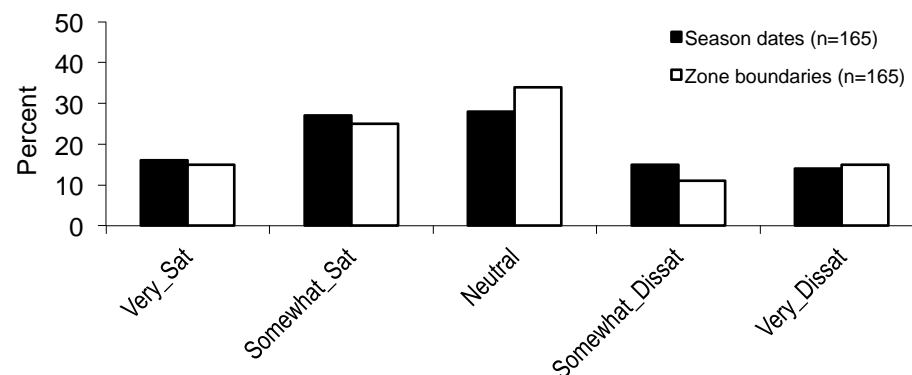
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region (n=175).



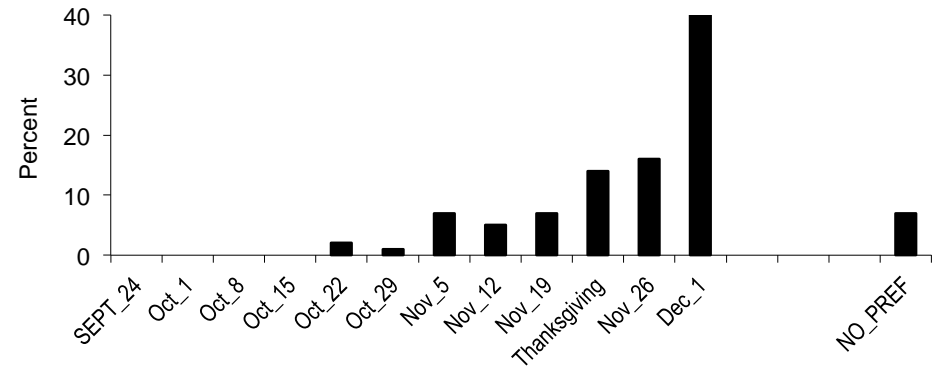
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Otter Slough Region.



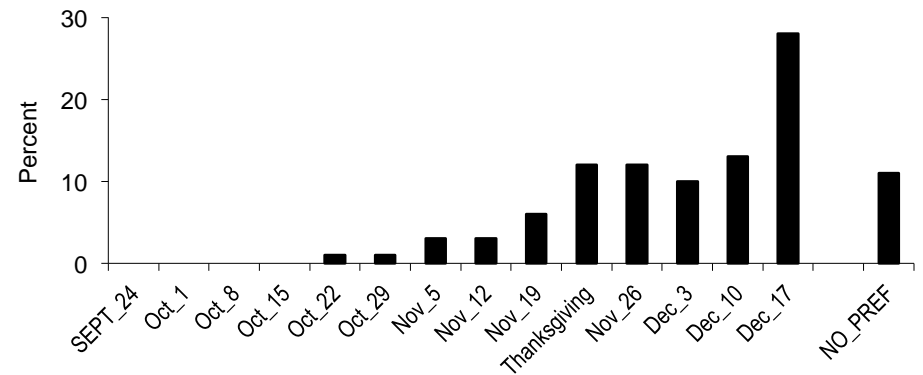
BOOTHEEL: Rice production, late season flooding, and open water associated with the Lower Mississippi, St. Francis, and Black rivers provide hunting opportunity in the Bootheel. This region has been included in the South Zone since 1977. Hunters in the Bootheel expressed the most agreement about season dates compared to any other region in Missouri. During a 60-day season, 40% would be willing to forgo hunting over Thanksgiving weekend in order to open the season a week and a half later on December 1, the latest the federal framework would allow. Although most hunters selected a December 1 opener, 52% indicated they would like a 60-day season to open on November 26 or earlier. This pattern held true for 45- and 30-day seasons as well.



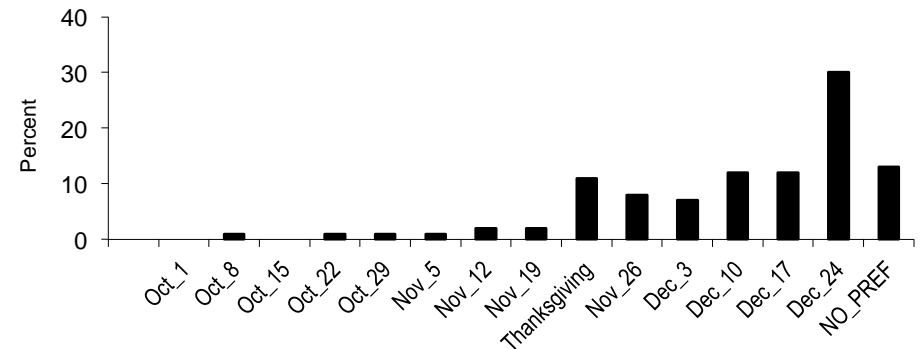
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=166).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=157).



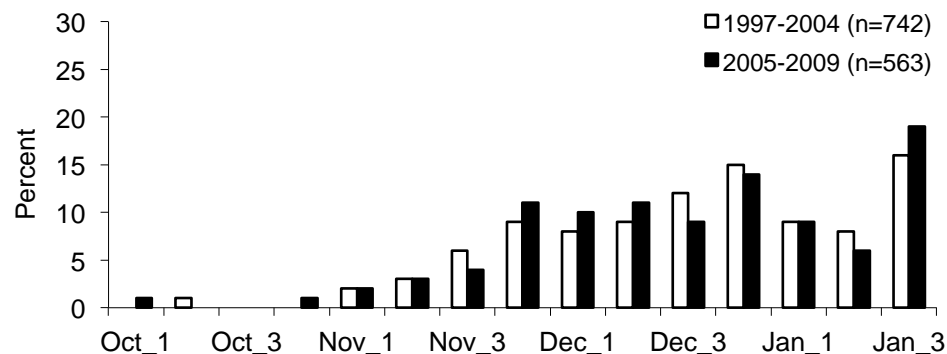
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=158).



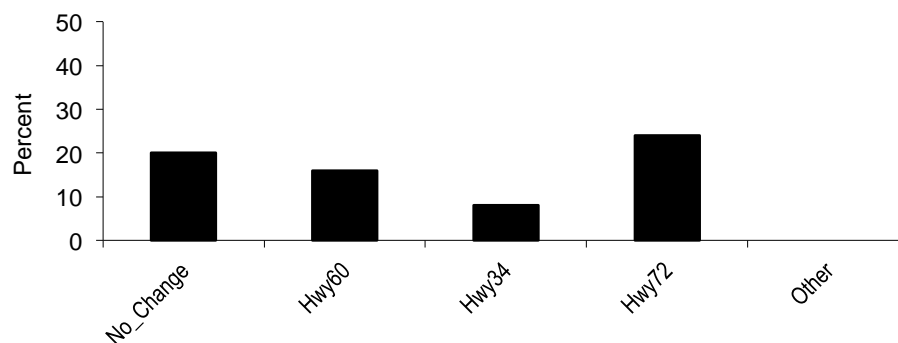
BOOTHEEL: Although season date preferences were later than in most locations, a fairly sizeable proportion of hunters still favor November and December hunting opportunity (64%). A higher proportion of hunters in this region compared to most were dissatisfied with season dates (35%) and, to a lesser extent, zone boundaries (20%). Most hunters (32%) did not have a preference about zone boundary locations, but of those who did, 35% recommended that the boundary be moved to HWY 72 and 29% recommended no change.



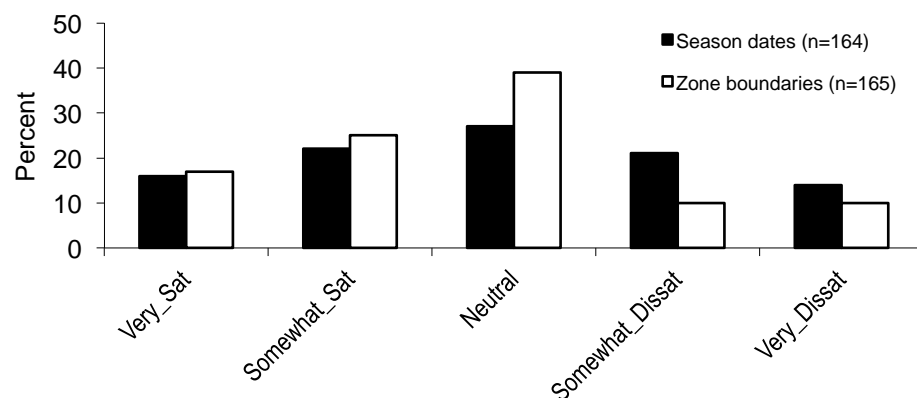
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for eastern Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region (n=185).



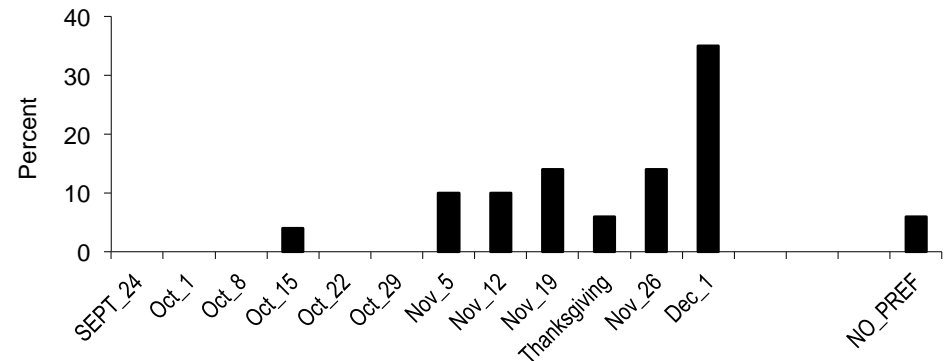
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Bootheel Region.



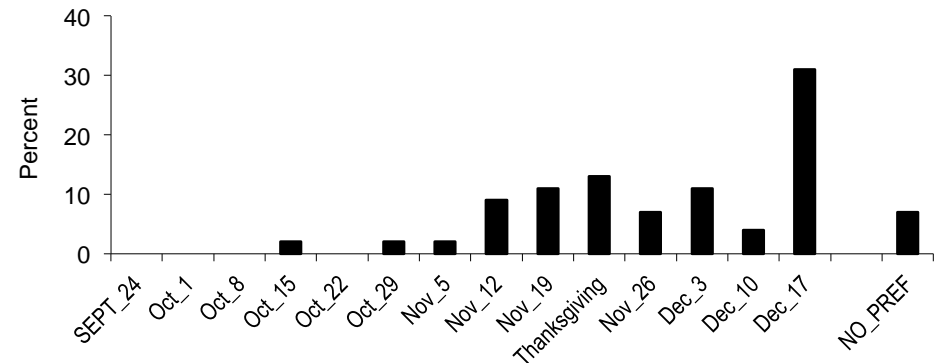
WHITE RIVER LAKES: Large reservoirs in South Missouri provide limited habitat diversity for migrant ducks; however, there once was a tradition of early season diver hunting. Now more hunters target late season mallards. A lack of shallow wetland habitat in South Missouri limits the number of ducks supported throughout the fall and early winter. Similar to the Bootheel, 35% of hunters in this region preferred a 60-day season that is as late as the federal framework will allow, while 58% would preferred an earlier opening date. Only 6% preferred the current South Zone 60-day season opening date of Thanksgiving. In the event of 45- and 30-day seasons, opening the season as late as possible was the most popular choice, but 61% and 59% preferred an earlier choice in the 45- and 30-day seasons, respectively.



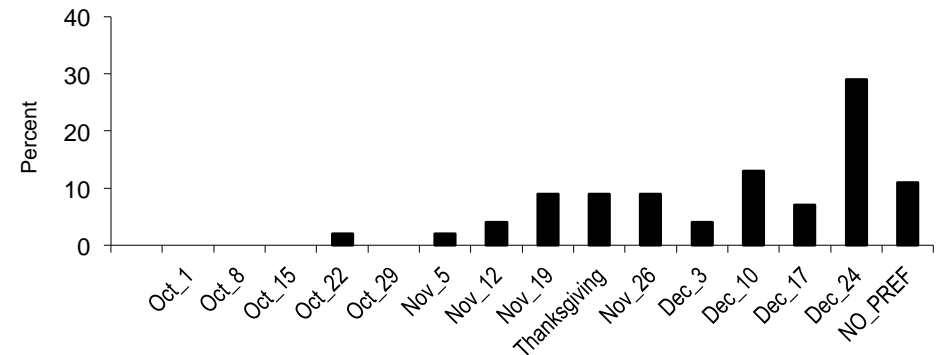
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=49).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=45).



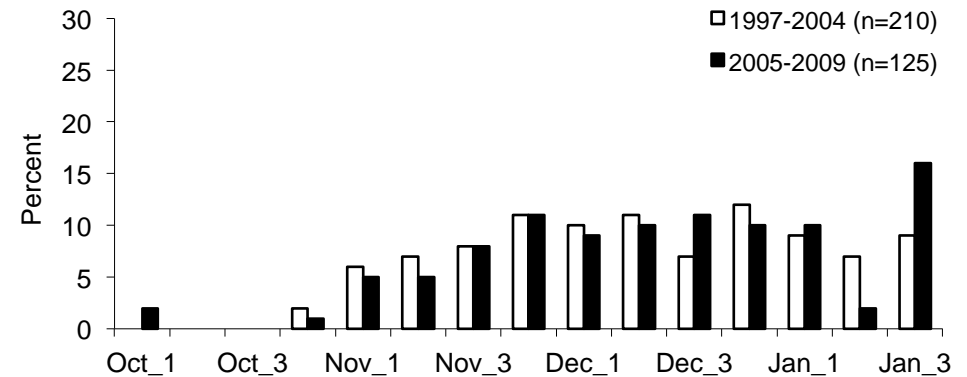
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=45).



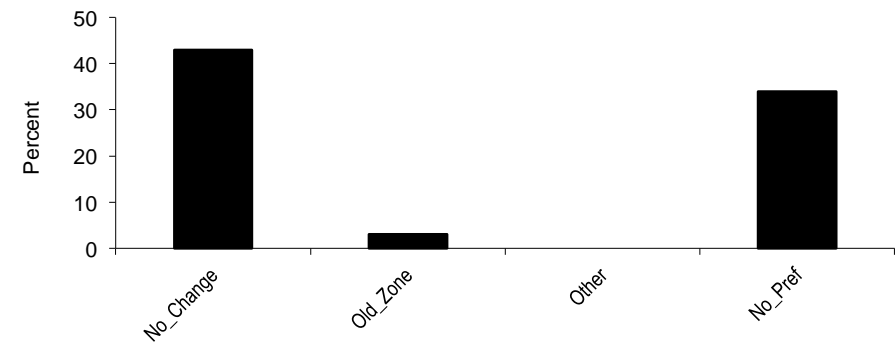
WHITE RIVER: Hunters had diverse opinions about their favored week to hunt. Hunters most frequently indicated their preferred week to hunt was in December (40%), but a nearly equal proportion also preferred November (29%) and January (28%). Twenty-two percent of hunters in this region were dissatisfied with season dates and 12% with zone boundaries.



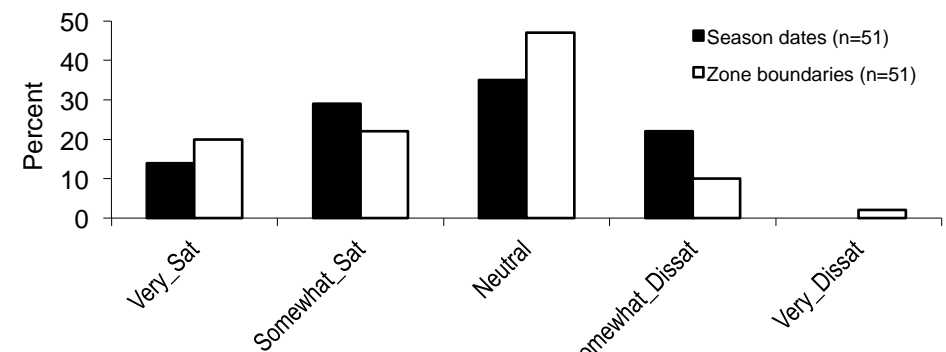
Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the White River Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the White River Region (n=79).



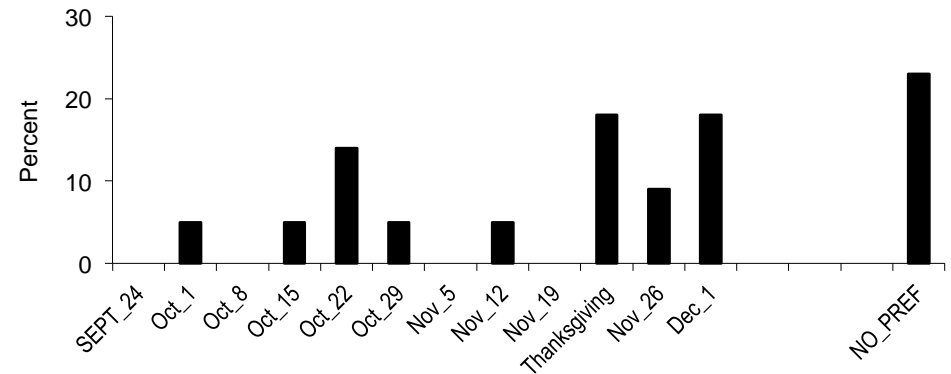
Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the White River Region.



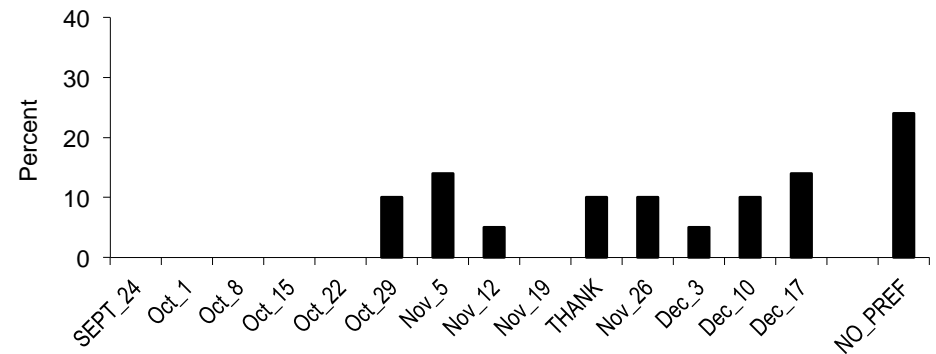
SOUTHWEST: Hunters in this region are faced with limited habitat for duck hunting. Small wetlands and ponds provide some early season opportunity and large irrigation lakes, streams, and surrounding crop fields provide some late season hunting opportunity. Based on a very limited sample size, the diverse preferences for season dates likely reflect the different hunting styles and habitat preferences among hunters. Eighteen percent of respondents indicated they preferred the current South Zone opener on Thanksgiving, 34% indicated they would like an earlier season, and 27% indicated they would prefer a later season. Season date preferences were more variable for a 45-day season. In the event of a 30-day season, hunters were split with 26% wanting as late a season as possible and 16% preferring an earlier season with a November 19 opener.



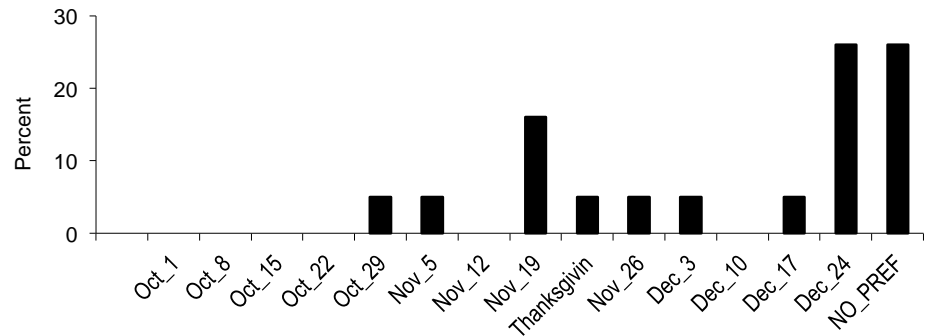
Preferred day for 60-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=22).



Preferred day for 45-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=21).



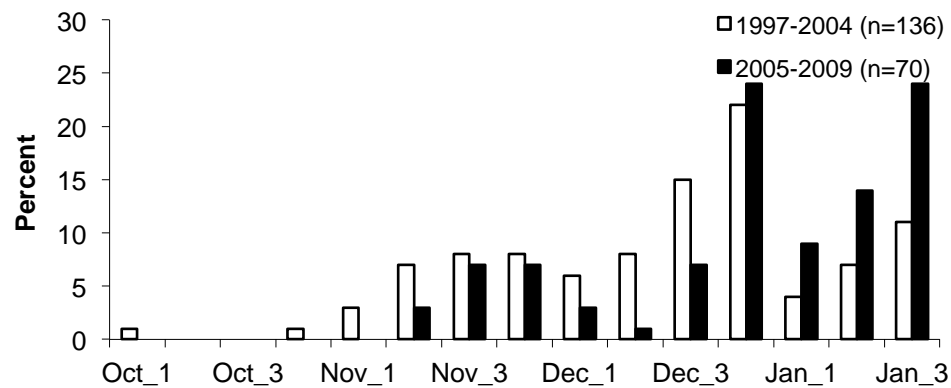
Preferred day for 30-day season to open for those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=19).



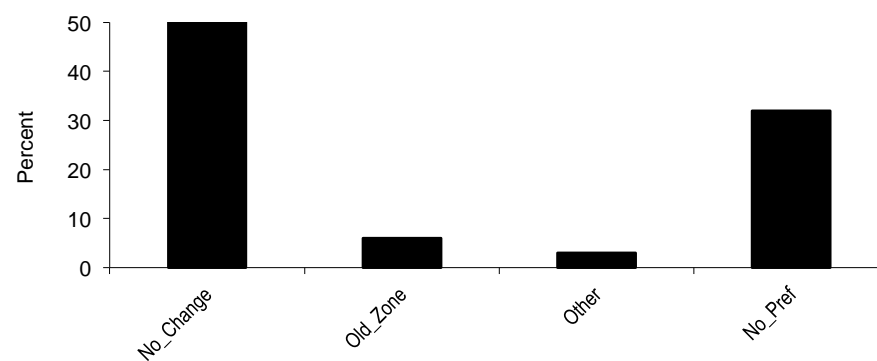
SOUTHWEST: Of all regions in Missouri, the highest proportion of hunters (47%) indicated their preferred week to hunt was in January. Over 60% of respondents in this region preferred that the current zone boundary remain in place the next five years. Only 4% of the respondents were dissatisfied with zone boundaries, but 25% were dissatisfied with season dates.



Week most preferred to hunt ducks for hunters who primarily hunted the Southwest Region: 1997-2004 and 2005-2009.



South Zone boundary preferences for western Missouri among those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region (n=31).



Hunter satisfaction with season dates and zone boundaries by those who primarily hunted the Southwest Region.

